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The Holder Memorial

OF

The Clinton Historical Society

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W. K. Tarkhurst









FRANCIS T. HOLDER

# THE HOLDER MEMORIAL

GIVEN TO

## The Clinton Historical Society

BY

FRANCIS T. HOLDER.

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ANDREW E. FORD, EDITOR.

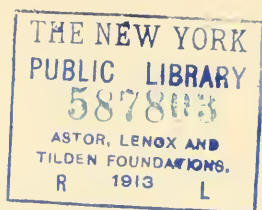
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CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

1905

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CLINTON, MASS.:

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1905

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## Francis T. Holder and His Ancestors.

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FRANCIS T. HOLDER, the donor of the Holder Memorial, is descended from the Holders of Holderness, England.\* Christopher Holder, the first of the Holder family to live in America, was born in 1631. He inherited considerable property and received a liberal education. Being converted by George Fox to a belief in the principles advocated by the Quakers, his zeal for the cause led him to become a minister of the faith. His eloquence as a speaker and the power of his pen united with his social position to make him a leader among the Friends during the thirty-five years of his ministry.

The call came to him to visit America and "testify" there to the truths revealed to him by the "inner light." Embarking with eight other Friends on the *Speedwell*, he reached Boston in the summer of 1656. He and his associates were arrested at the landing, and on being brought before Governor Endicott were committed to prison, where they remained eleven weeks. Then they were sent back to England.

Nothing intimidated, Christopher Holder returned to America the next year. At Sandwich, Massachusetts, he and John Copeland labored for weeks and gathered as the result of their labors the first society of Friends ever formed in America. Having preached in various towns they at last

\* The writer acknowledges his indebtedness to the "Holders of Holderness," by Charles F. Holder.

came to Salem, the stronghold of bigotry. There in the First Church after the service Christopher Holder attempted to address the congregation, but was dragged from the church, brought before Governor Endicott and condemned to receive thirty lashes. Bowden says, that after the sentence was carried out on Boston Common, "torn and lacerated, they were conveyed to their prison cell." While in jail Christopher Holder, John Copeland and Richard Doudney prepared their "Declaration of Faith," the first Quaker document of the kind ever written. An order was issued that Holder and Copeland should be whipped every week. In all, during seven weeks, Holder received three hundred and fifty lashes administered with "a triple-knotted cord." Then they were threatened and banished from the colony.

The next year, however, they returned again from England, and while visiting Sandwich were arrested and whipped. Later in the same year Holder and Copeland went to Boston to "testify," but they were arrested before they had an opportunity to speak, and each was condemned to have his right ear cut off by the hangman. When this sentence had been executed they declared: "In the strength of God we suffered joyfully \* \* \* for the sealing of the testimony which the Lord hath given us." After this they were whipped every week for nine weeks, and then banished on pain of death.

Yet in the next year we find Christopher Holder in America once more. He was immediately arrested, and three of his associates were put to death. He, however, was spared, surely not because he was less bold in proclaiming his faith, for none was more bold than he, but, possibly, on account of the influence of his friends in England. When banished again he acted with other Quakers in securing an order from Charles II to Endicott that all Quaker prisoners should be set free and that toleration should be granted to the sect.

During his later years Christopher Holder had a home

in Rhode Island and another in England, but much of the time he was travelling with George Fox and others, spreading in England and various portions of America the doctrines to which he was so devoted. He died in England in 1688.

The most striking characteristic of this founder of Quakerism in America was his singleness of purpose. To spread the doctrines of the inner light, he sacrificed the ease of wealth, the pleasures of social position and the allurements of scholarship. He persistently attacked the stronghold of bigotry and, amid countless privations of mind and body, in long-continued imprisonments, under constant threats of death, he fought for freedom of conscience and the gospel of peace.

Though Christopher Holder spent the closing years of his life in England, his descendants continued to live in America. For the next three generations the Holders were among the leading Quakers of New England, and were also prominent in its business interests. Daniel Holder, the great grandson of Christopher, was a shipbuilder in Nantucket. Thomas Holder, his son, who was born in Nantucket September 28, 1754, married Sarah Gaskell, a Quaker minister of high repute. Her home was in that part of Mendon now called Blackstone. About 1778 Thomas Holder and his family moved to Berlin and built the house there still known as the Holder Homestead. He died in Berlin January 10, 1830.

David Holder, the fifth of the eight children of Thomas Holder, was born at the Holder Homestead September 12, 1788. He attended the district school and Leicester Academy, and afterwards taught school. He married Ruth Bassett of Uxbridge, who had been one of his pupils, and had also been brought up in the Quaker faith. They made their home in the south part of Bolton on the Hudson road in a house of two tenements now known as the George Dow place. David's older brother, Joseph, lived in the other half of the same house. Both Joseph and David followed

the shoemaker's trade, and in all worked in the same neighborhood for more than a quarter of a century.

Joseph had the wider reputation as a maker of fine shoes, and it is to him rather than David that the following statement of Henry S. Nourse applies: "On a cross-road in the south part of Bolton stood a humble cottage with a little unpainted shop close by, wherein lived and delved a Quaker shoemaker by the name of Holder. He was no common cobbler. The exceeding excellence of his work had somehow gained the attention of the wealthier ladies of Lancaster and vicinity, and they soon would wear no work but his." While living in this house David Holder had two children: Rachel B., born June 30, 1813, and William Penn, born August 26, 1816.

About 1826 the family moved to that part of Lancaster then known as the Factory Village, now Clinton. Mrs. Holder kept a boarding-house for the weaving department of the Lancaster Cotton Manufacturing Company. This house was at the foot of Church Street on the west side of Main Street. Many years ago it was moved to the east side of Main Street, and is now the first house on that side, south of Church Street. Here Mrs. Holder kept eighteen or nineteen boarders. The price charged the mill girls for board and lodging was eighty-three cents per week. David Holder in the meantime carried on his business of shoemaking in a little shop north of the house. While living here, David and Ruth Bassett Holder had two children who died in infancy. August 18, 1833, Francis T. Holder was born in this old boarding-house. He was the last child in the family.

When Francis T. Holder was twenty months old, his parents moved back to Bolton and occupied the second house on the same side of the road from the one in which they had first begun their married life. Joseph still lived in the same house which he had formerly shared with David. Here David lived quietly, engaged in farming and shoemaking, for the next fifteen years.



William Penn Holder, his oldest son, came to Clintonville about 1849 and began the making and selling of shoes in a little shop which stood about where the Blood Building now stands. A little later this shoeshop was moved to the present location of the Fitch Block. Francis T. Holder joined his brother in 1849, and worked with him at making shoes. The father and mother came here once more in 1850, and lived in a tenement built by David Holder in connection with the shoe-shop. The father had furnished the little capital needed and had owned the shoe business from the beginning. Several hands were employed in making ladies' custom shoes. David Holder was the cutter. There are many women yet living who recall the remarkable excellence of the work done at this shop, and say they have never worn as well-made shoes since as they secured there. David Holder died at this house March 26, 1864. Ruth Bassett Holder died in August, 1883, in Vassellboro, Maine, at the house of her daughter, Rachel B., who had married Thomas B. Nichols. Both David and Ruth Bassett Holder throughout their lives clung to the Quaker form of worship, and whenever possible attended the meetings. Both died in the calm security of that faith.

Such are the simple annals of David and Ruth Bassett Holder, in whose honor filial devotion has raised the Holder Memorial. They possessed in a high degree the characteristic virtues of old New England, self-dependence, industry, frugality, honesty, and they united with these a temperance somewhat rare in those days, together with a breadth of sympathy not always associated with Puritan self-restraint. The gentler virtues of the Quakers were theirs also. Their neighborliness is shown by the fact that they were familiarly known as Uncle David and Aunt Ruth by a wide circle of friends unrelated by blood. It was perhaps from the mother even more than from the father that Francis T. Holder derived his character. She united with the practical qualities which enabled her to manage a large boarding-house successfully and rear a family in comfort on a meagre

income, a warmth of heart which causes her to be remembered by so many who were the recipients of her kindness as "one of the best women who ever lived."

We have noted the birth of Francis T. Holder and his removal to Bolton in early childhood. Here he lived until he was sixteen years of age. His father kept him employed much of the time on the farm and in the shoe-shop. He was given an opportunity, however, to attend the district school several months each year, and later was for a few short, scattered terms a member of the famous Frye School which flourished in the Quaker Village in those days. He is remembered as a leader in all the sports of boyhood.

When he came to Clintonville in 1849, he boarded for a time at the Clinton House, which had been opened a year or two before under the management of Faulkner & Burdett. When his father renewed his housekeeping in Clinton, Francis lived with him. In November, 1852, when he was only nineteen, he married Arabella P. Davis, who was born in Newark, Vermont. They boarded for a few months and then went to housekeeping in the second tenement of the corporation house which stands first on the north side of Pleasant Street, east of Main Street. The rent was two dollars sixty-two and one-half cents per month. They had one child, Ava L. Holder, born December 30, 1853.

He continued at the work of making ladies' sewed shoes with his father and brother until 1852. He never liked the business, however, and was anxious to get out into a more stirring life. William Eaton, who was in charge of the Bigelow Carpet Mill, offered him the position of watchman there. He was to work eighty-four hours per week for five dollars, or at the rate of about six cents per hour. He accepted the position, but when he went to assume it Horatio N. Bigelow told Mr. Eaton that he could give the young man a better job, and took him over to the mill of the Clinton Company and set him at work in the finishing room in packing cloths, and other similar labor. Here he worked six days in a week, thirteen and a half hours per day, for

six dollars, a little over seven cents per hour. In three months his wages were raised to one dollar twelve and one-half cents per day, in six months to one dollar twenty-five cents, in two years to one dollar fifty cents. Three months later he was made second-hand in the dressing room at one dollar eighty-seven and one-half cents per day. This constant increase of wages has been noted because it gives the best of evidence of the faithfulness of the young mechanic to his work and the development of his ability and knowledge of the business, as well as of the growing appreciation of his employers. It is worthy of note that Mr. Holder never asked for an increase of wages or salary in his life, but every advance was made by his employers without solicitation.

In 1858, Horatio N. Bigelow and John P. Buzzell urged him to come into the weaving room of the Bigelow Carpet Company, as a loom-fixer and second-hand. Although the wages were less, one dollar fifty cents per day, than he was receiving from the Clinton Company, he made the change. Here he worked until the beginning of 1864. During this time he received an offer from E. S. Higgins of New York of two dollars seventy-five cents per day for work at his carpet mill, but Mr. Bigelow persuaded him to stay here by an offer of two dollars twenty-five cents per day and free house rent in a good tenement.

Although he was a Quaker by birth and education, yet like many others of that part of the sect known as "Free Quakers," he recognized that the maintenance of the right sometimes requires war. His parents agreed with him in this and had sympathized most deeply from the beginning of the Civil War with those who were struggling to maintain the Union. In the beginning of 1864, when the recruiting of the army had become very difficult, his sense of his duty to his country would not allow him to remain at home any longer.

January 5, 1864, he was mustered into the Third Cavalry. Colonel Thomas Chickering commanded this regiment. In

the beginning it had been the Forty-first Massachusetts Infantry. This regiment saw hard service under General Banks in the Red River Expedition. March 20, it was near Alexandria on the Red River, and from this time to May 20 it was almost constantly engaged in skirmishing with the enemy. The battle at Sabine Cross Roads, April 8 and 9, was the most important engagement. During the latter part of May and June it rested at Morganza Bend on the Mississippi. June 21, the regiment was dismounted and armed as infantry. July 15, it was dispatched to Fortress Monroe, and then sent to join General Sheridan in the Valley of the Shenandoah. At Opequan and Cedar Creek the regiment did some valiant fighting. After the latter battle, October 19, the Third Cavalry was not again seriously engaged.

Battery L, Fifth United States Artillery, one of the few mounted batteries, needed more men to recruit its ranks and volunteers were called for from the Third Cavalry. Mr. Holder was among those who offered to make the change. He says he had seen such lack of discipline in the volunteer service, that he was glad to enter an organization where men were compelled to do their duty, and do it without question or hesitation. He remained only three months in the regular army, yet during this time he acquired more than from any other experience of his life, the principles and qualities which gave him so great success in business. After these three months he went back to the Third Cavalry.

At the close of the war, as the men of the Third Cavalry saw the other regiments sent home to be mustered out, they constantly expected that their turn would come next. They were disappointed, however, and in June, 1865, started off on the railroad train from Washington without the rank and file knowing their destination. They were carried to Leavenworth, Kansas, to overawe the Indian tribes which were becoming uneasy. At this time Mr. Holder became first sergeant without passing through the lower grades of

office. As the commissioned officers were absent for some time, Sergeant Holder had command of his company. But at last there came a time of consolidation, and by good luck Sergeant Holder's warrant was so dated as to admit of his discharge. He had been paid for only two months out of the twenty he had served, so that he now received eighteen months' pay, beside a large amount for travelling expenses. He was mustered out August 13, and just failed to reach home on his birthday, which occurred August 18.

The connection of William Eaton with the Carpet Mill had been severed in April, and the position of overseer was kept vacant, awaiting Mr. Holder's return and readiness for service. October 1 he renewed his connection with the Carpet Mill as overseer, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars. Here he continued until 1868, when he went to take what he hoped would be a better position in Everett Bigelow's silk mill at Roxbury. But Everett Bigelow's business in Roxbury soon after became involved, and Mr. Holder returned to Clinton, to the Andrew Fuller mill, in 1869.

Carpet looms were being made at this time in the Parker Machine Shop for Alexander Smith of Yonkers, New York. Seth Chenery went out to set them up. Complaint was made that these looms were not running satisfactorily, and Mr. Chenery told Mr. Smith that if Francis T. Holder could be engaged to have charge of them everything would be all right. Negotiations were opened and Mr. Holder received an offer of a salary of eighteen hundred dollars. The Bigelow Carpet Company made him an offer to remain here and return to its employ. He decided that he ought to accept Mr. Smith's offer and entered his mill April 1, 1870.

Mr. Holder was put in charge of nineteen looms which up to this time had produced on an average only eight yards of Axminster carpeting each per day. Two years after he became overseer of the room, the average product was twenty yards per day. This was brought about through Mr. Holder's knowledge of machinery and power to make various adaptations and improvements in the looms, and



also from his ability to secure the best help and to get the best work from them that they were capable of doing. After a time he became superintendent of the weaving mill, and one department after another was placed under his control until at last he managed the whole. In 1894, he became president of the company. He retired from this position in 1902.

He was given absolute power over methods of production, changes in the plant and expenditure of money for needed improvements. From statistics prepared for the fair at St. Louis we learn that floor space of the mills was then thirty-five acres. The number of employees was fifty-eight hundred. There were thirty-five thousand spindles, six hundred and thirty-four velvet, tapestry and Wilton velvet looms, and seven hundred and fourteen Axminster looms. The average daily product had risen from thirteen or fourteen hundred yards per day in 1870, to sixty-two thousand yards or thirty-five miles. This product is more than double that of any other carpet mill in the world. That this great development of the mills is due to Mr. Holder is proven by the following resolution passed by the directors of the company on his retirement from the presidency. It was offered by W. B. Smith, ex-president.

"Resolved, That owing to Mr. F. T. Holder's desire to be relieved of the cares of business this Board of Trustees accepts his resignation as president of this company, and at the same time takes this opportunity to express their appreciation and thanks for the great ability, untiring efforts and sound judgment that he has given to the management of this business since his first connection with it, covering a period of thirty-two years. We wish to put on record our appreciation of his work and influence on this business during all these years, first as weaving superintendent, then as general superintendent, and finally, during the past eight years, as president. While we lose his services as president with the greatest regret, we appreciate his kindness in consenting to serve as a director, and extend our best wishes that a long and happy life may be in store for him."

He must be looked upon not only as a successful man of business, but also as one of the great benefactors of his country, for he did much to raise the United States to the foremost place in the world in carpet manufacturing, he added to the nation's wealth and gave profitable employment to thousands of American citizens, and so aided in reducing the cost of carpets, that what had before been the luxury of the rich alone, has now become a common comfort.

Among the qualities of Mr. Holder which rendered this great work possible, in addition to those inherited, singleness of purpose, independence of character, industry, frugality, honesty, thoroughness and temperance, may be mentioned a keen insight into the principles of mechanism by which he was able to make many minor improvements in machinery, which in the aggregate largely increased production; an ability to systematise business so that no energy should be wasted; above all, the power of so managing his employees that they should work not grudgingly or of necessity, but loyally and heartily as for common interests.

Of his private life, little further need be said. His wife died February 25, 1898. He married as a second wife, Elizabeth W. Woodbury of Bolton, who was born November 1, 1837. He still retains his pleasant home in Yonkers, New York. He has a farm where he keeps the horses in which he so much delights, at Barton, Vermont. He spends his winters at Pasadena, California, where he has a Spanish-American residence in the midst of a semi-tropical garden.

In all these homes he has been most liberal in his benefactions. He has always kept warm his remembrance of the scenes of his youth, and the Quaker Village of Bolton is greatly indebted to his generosity. Now, the Holder Memorial will stand through coming years as a testimony of his devotion to the memory of his parents, his undying interest in the home of his young manhood, and his noble desire that the wealth which he has won through his labors shall be used most unselfishly for the good of others.

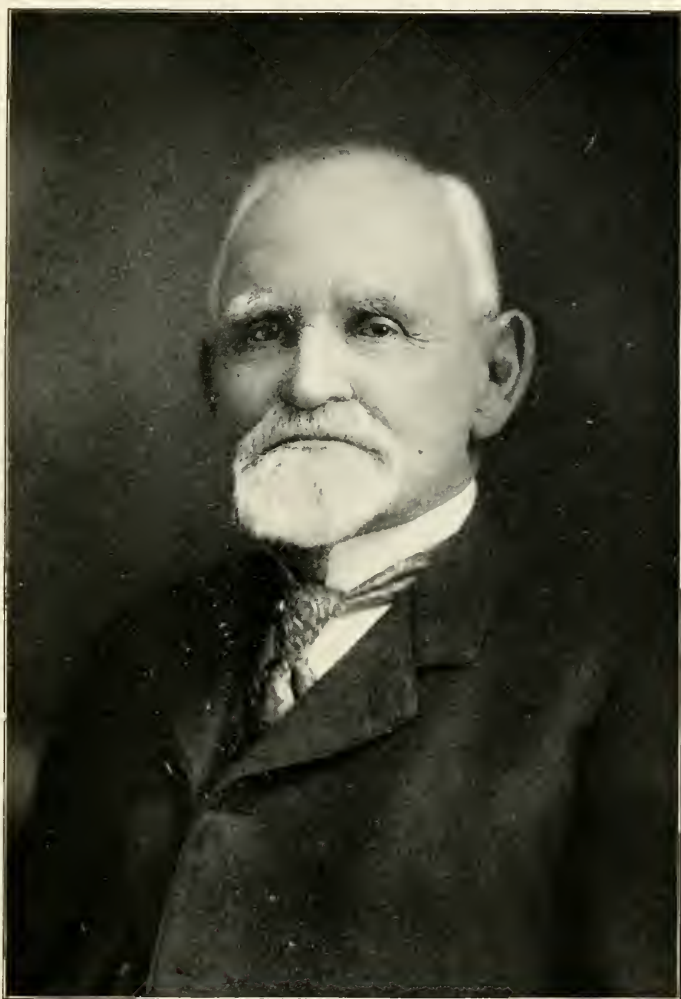
## The Clinton Historical Society.

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JUNE 26, 1894, a meeting was held at the District Court Room in Clinton to consider the question of forming a society which should have for its object the collection and preservation of records and relics connected with local history, and the awakening and maintaining of an interest in the past life of our community. Christopher C. Stone was made chairman of this meeting. Remarks were made by C. C. Stone, W. E. Parkhurst, A. E. Ford, Joshua Thissell, C. L. Swan, E. A. Evans, Dr. G. W. Burdett, G. W. Weeks, Dr. W. P. Bowers and G. P. Taylor, upon the reasons for the organization of such a society and the work which should be done by it. A. E. Ford, Dr. G. M. Morse and W. E. Parkhurst were appointed a committee to prepare a constitution and by-laws, and to report at a future meeting.

The committee made its report at a meeting held September 10, and after slight amendment the constitution and by-laws as reported were adopted. The management of the affairs of the society was largely left to a board of directors consisting of a president and two vice-presidents, a clerk, a treasurer, an auditor and a curator. The membership fee was one dollar and the annual dues the same. The meetings were to be held quarterly, on the second Monday in September, December, March and June.

The original members of the society were: C. L. Swan,\* G. W. Burdett,\* A. A. Burditt, C. W. Field, Jr., E. C. Osgood, H. C. Greeley,\* Mrs. H. C. Greeley,\* O. L. Stone,



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September 24, the permanent organization of the society was completed. The following is a summary of its official management during the nine years of its existence as an unincorporated society :

President—C. C. Stone, 1894-1902 ; Jonathan Smith, 1902-3.

Vice-Presidents—G. M. Morse, 1894-1900; A. C. Dakin, 1894-5; Jonathan Smith, 1895-1902; C. C. Stone, 1902-1903; Neil Walker, 1902-1903; C. L. Hunt, 1903.

Clerk—A. E. Ford, 1894-1903.

Treasurer—W. E. Parkhurst, 1894-1903.

Curator—C. A. Bartlett, 1894-1902 ; H. F. Hartwell, 1902-3.

Auditor—J. A. Morgan, 1894-5; E. W. Burdett, 1895-1903.

Addresses have been given at the quarterly meetings as follows :

1894

Sept. 24—A. E. Ford. "The Clinton Historical Society :  
the Object, Method and Scope of its Work."

Dec. 10—C. C. Stone. "The Old Houses of Clinton."

1895

March 11—G. W. Burdett. "Reminiscences of School-  
days."

" " W. E. Parkhurst. "Personal Recollections of  
High Street."

June 10—G. M. Morse. "Reminiscences of Clinton in 1846."

" " Joshua Thissell. "My First Seven Years in Clin-  
ton."

Sept. 9—A. E. Ford. "Our First Cotton Factory."

Dec. 9—D. B. Ingalls. "Clintonville in 1847 from the Stand-  
point of a Young Mechanic."

1896

March 9—Henry S. Nourse of Lancaster. "Mutilation of  
Geographical Nomenclature."

June 8—C. M. Bowers. "Memories of Some Former Cler-  
gymen."

Sept. 14—W. T. Forbes, Judge of Probate of Worcester  
County. "Probate Courts."

Dec. 14—Jonathan Smith. "Development of Jury Trials."

1897

March 8—C. L. Hunt. "Some Recent Educational His-  
tory."

June 10—J. C. Duncan. "William, the Silent."

Sept. 13—C. C. Stone. "The Factory Village in the Thir-  
ties."

Dec. 15—Devoted to Resolutions and Remarks on the Lives  
of the Recently Deceased Citizens: George  
W. Burdett, John R. Foster, Archalaus C.  
Dakin, Charles G. Stevens.

1898

March 14—Curtis Guild of Boston. "Every-day Patriotism."

June 13—Henry A. Potter. "Spanish Sketches."

Sept. 12—Annie E. Batchellor. "Florence."

Dec. 12—J. Evarts Greene of Worcester. "The Santa Fé Trade, its Route and Character."

1899

March 13—Congressman George W. Weymouth. "Congressional Life at Washington."

June 12—Hiram A. Miller. "The Metropolitan Water Supply." Illustrated by stereopticon.

Sept. 18—T. F. Larkin. "The Influence of Poetry on History."

Dec. 11—W. P. Bowers. "The History of the Clinton Hospital Previous to the First Printed Report."

1900

March 12—Celebrated as the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Clinton by general remarks by members.

June 18—The municipal celebration of the Semi-Centennial of Incorporation took the place of a regular meeting.

1902

Dec. 8—Edwin D. Mead. "The Voice of the Old South Meeting-House."

1903

March 9—Neil Walker. "Some Phases of the Evolution of our Greatest Industry."

June 18—W. E. Parkhurst. "The Chapel Hill School."

Sept. 14—Jonathan Smith. "Some Phases of Shays' Rebellion."

Thus in all some twenty-seven papers and addresses were given before the society. Some fifteen of them were on subjects of local history. These were in many cases given by men who were eye witnesses of the events narrated or conditions portrayed, and were published in the Clinton Courant and the Clinton Daily Item, which have always worked most harmoniously with the society in preserving the researches of its members or of those invited to speak before it. The other twelve papers or addresses had a broader range, and were delivered by persons, often outside

the society, who are recognized as authorities on the subjects treated.

The most important work done by the Clinton Historical Society in its unincorporated form was that in connection with the celebration of the Semi-Centennial of the Incorporation of the Town of Clinton. The first movement in this direction was a motion passed at a meeting of the society held September 18, when it was voted that the president, C. C. Stone, "be instructed to bring before the town the question of the desirability of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Clinton." From this initiative of the society a celebration was held under the auspices of the town which did much to awaken local pride and patriotism, mark historical spots, and to gather together in many most valuable addresses afterwards published, a store of local history which might otherwise have been lost. Not only did the society take the initiative in this celebration, but the chairman of the society, C. C. Stone, became the chairman of the general committee of arrangements, the secretary, A. E. Ford, the editor of the memorial volume, and other members were most active on the committees and in taking part in the the various functions.

The effort of the society in connection with the Semi-Centennial seems to have exhausted its energies for a while, so that for a year no meetings were held in which there was a quorum sufficient for the transaction of business.

From the beginning it had been felt that permanent quarters with conveniences for the collection, preservation and exhibition of documents, books and other articles of historical value were essential to effective work, and even to the very existence of the society. The erection of a new building for the public library gave a hope to the society that such a room might be reserved there for its use. When a request to this effect was made by the society through a committee to the board of library directors, that board did not feel that it had the power to grant such privileges as the

society desired. Yet at the meeting of the society held September 14, 1903, it was voted "that the directors be requested to give further consideration to the question whether some arrangement can be made with the library directors for the use of a room in the library building for a historical collection."

Greater blessings were, however, in store for the society than it had any reason to hope for. The very source of its disappointment gave rise to this unexpected good fortune. Francis T. Holder had for some time been considering the question of erecting in Clinton a memorial to his parents, in connection with some worthy object. He had thought of making the Clinton Hospital or an old ladies' home the recipients of his bounty, but the large gifts recently bestowed for these two purposes made him feel that some more distinctive object, where his memorial would stand by itself, was desirable. When he learned from the papers concerning the disappointment of the Clinton Historical Society in securing a room, he thought, "here is my opportunity to occupy a field where there is no danger that the memorial will not be distinctive and at the same time a field peculiarly appropriate in its nature." Before making his purpose public he secured the refusal of a satisfactory lot for a building.

A call was issued for a special meeting of the society to be held at the court room, September 26, to see if the society would "vote to form a corporation under the laws of the commonwealth." Ten members were present. Proposals made by Francis T. Holder to give the society a building fitted for its uses were presented by the president, and he also brought forward a "plan for incorporation as a necessary step to the receipt of such a gift." It was voted to proceed to incorporation and to approve the articles of agreement offered as a preliminary to such incorporation.

One other meeting of the unincorporated society was held October 19, in which it was voted "that the voluntary association known as the Clinton Historical Society, turn

over its records, papers and other property to the corporation known as the Clinton Historical Society." It was further voted "that the voluntary association be dissolved."

Meanwhile, action was taken for securing a charter for the incorporated society and for organizing the same. The first meeting was held after due legal formalities, October 6, at the Court Room. At this meeting by-laws were presented by a provisional committee, W. E. Parkhurst and A. E. Ford, appointed for this purpose. These by-laws were considered and voted upon article by article, and then, as amended, adopted as a whole as the by-laws of the society.

The preamble is so broadened from that of the unincorporated society as to include art and natural history as well as history, within the aims of the society. The membership fee is made five dollars for all those not members of the old society. The curatorship is dropped in the list of officers. The clerk, treasurer and auditor are no longer on the board of directors which, six in number, are elected as such by the society. The president and two vice-presidents are elected by the directors from their own number.

The charter was signed October 13. The charter members were Jonathan Smith, W. E. Parkhurst, W. I. Jenkins, J. C. Duncan, C. C. Stone, Neil Walker, D. B. Ingalls, A. A. Burditt, A. E. Ford, and H. F. Hartwell.

The other members of the society are Lucius Field, E. S. Fuller, W. O. Johnson, Jeremiah Fiske, Joshua Thissell, E. D. Morey, G. J. Ott, W. R. Dame, Mrs. W. R. Dame, C. L. French, Mrs. A. E. Ford, C. L. Hunt, H. A. Burdett, Mrs. C. C. Stone, Mrs. E. S. Fuller, H. N. Bigelow, Mrs. G. M. Morse, Mrs. Jonathan Smith, E. C. Osgood, F. E. Howard, A. H. Waterman, E. A. Evans, C. D. Copp, E. W. Burdett, W. P. Bowers, C. A. Bartlett. All these are from the old society. Those who have joined since are E. W. Gibbs, J. C. L. Clark, Mrs. J. C. L. Clark, C. E. Shaw, O. L. Stone, W. A. Fuller, E. L. Harris, C. H. Bowers.

The officers since incorporation have been: President, Jonathan Smith; vice-presidents, C. C. Stone and W. I.



Jenkins; other directors, J. C. Duncan, D. B. Ingalls and Neil Walker; clerk. A. E. Ford; treasurer, W. E. Parkhurst; auditor, H. F. Hartwell.

The addresses and papers given before the incorporated Clinton Historical Society are as follows:

Dec. 19, 1903—Hon. William Everett. "Edward Everett."

March 11, 1904—C. C. Stone.\* "The Clinton Militia."

June 13, 1904—C. M. Bowers.\* "History of the Baptist Church of Clinton."

Sept. 22, 1904—W. E. Parkhurst.\* "Indian Paths and Old Roads."

Dec. 12, 1904—Joseph H. Perry. "The Rock Floor of Clinton and the Development of the Nashua Valley."

March 4, 1905—Joshua Thissell.\* "The Social Life of Clinton during the Civil War."

Those starred have been printed in the Clinton Daily Item and Clinton Courant.

The meetings of both the unincorporated and corporated societies up to the present time have been held for the most part in the District Court Room, the use of which has been furnished to the society free of charge. Those meetings at which papers or addresses have been given have been open to the general public. The attendance at the meetings in the Court Room has usually been small, seldom exceeding forty. The addresses which seemed likely to draw larger audiences were given in Bigelow Hall or, in one case, in the vestry of the Unitarian Church. The number of people who heard these papers and addresses was, however, very much smaller than the number reached through their publication, in full or by extended reports, in the Clinton press. Moreover, as those papers, dealing with local matters, will be used as sources of information by those who in the future touch upon local history, through the press, in the schools or in public speaking, they will directly and indirectly reach a body of listeners and readers worthy of their value and the labor spent upon them,

## The Laying of the Corner-Stone.

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THE first action relative to the laying of the corner-stone of the Holder Memorial Building was taken at a meeting of the board of directors of the Clinton Historical Society, held May 23, 1904, when arrangements were made for inviting the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and Trinity Lodge to assist in the ceremonies. June 8, a meeting of the directors was held, at which it was announced that both the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and Trinity Lodge were ready to coöperate with the Clinton Historical Society in laying the corner-stone, and it was voted: "that the board of directors of the Clinton Historical Society—Jonathan Smith, C. C. Stone, Dr. D. B. Ingalls, Rev. J. C. Duncan, W. I. Jenkins and Neil Walker—serve as a committee to act with a committee to be chosen from Trinity Lodge, in making all necessary arrangements for the ceremonies in connection with laying the corner-stone."

A. E. Ford, the clerk, and W. E. Parkhurst, the treasurer, were appointed "a committee to obtain a box to place within the corner-stone, and to secure such documents and other articles as may seem suitable to be preserved therein." An excellent copper box, ten by twelve by fourteen inches, was presented to the society by E. B. Badger & Son of Boston.

Trinity Lodge appointed as a coöperating committee: W. Jonathan Smith, W. Charles A. Bartlett, W. Allan G. Buttrick, Bro. Charles Frazer, Bro. Lucius Field.

Saturday, July 30, was fixed upon as the date for the ceremonies. Rev. James C. Duncan was asked to give the

address, and the Harvard Quartette of Boston was engaged to furnish music.

By July 30, the construction of the building had so far advanced that the first floor was laid and there accommodations were provided for the ceremonies and a considerable part of the spectators. There were seats for others in front of the building.

The grand officers of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Massachusetts arrived in Clinton at about one o'clock and were escorted to the hall of Trinity Lodge; at one forty-five, a luncheon was given in the Masonic Banquet Hall, at which about sixty gentlemen and ladies were served; at two thirty a meeting of Trinity Lodge was held, with W. M. Walter F. Page in the chair. Then the members of the Lodge marched in due order to the site of the Holder Memorial Building, with George W. Richardson as marshal.

As the donor of the building, Francis T. Holder, was unable to be present, he was represented by Wellington E. Parkhurst in making the request.

The ceremonies opened at three o'clock, and were carried out in accordance with the following program :

1. Hymn. Sung by Harvard Quartette.

Great Architect of earth and heaven,  
By time nor space confined,  
Enlarge our love to comprehend  
Our brethren, all mankind.

Where'er we are, whate'er we do,  
Thy presence let us own;  
Thine eye, all seeing, marks our deeds,  
To Thee all thoughts are known.

While nature's works and science's laws  
We labor to reveal,  
Oh! be our duty done to Thee  
With fervency and zeal.

With FAITH our guide, and humble HOPE,  
Warm CHARITY and LOVE,  
May all at last be raised to share  
Thy perfect light above,

2. Request of Bro. Wellington E. Parkhurst, representing Bro. Francis T. Holder, the donor.

*Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of  
Masons of Massachusetts:*

In behalf of Francis T. Holder, the builder of this edifice, I here and now make request that you will proceed to the laying of the corner-stone in accordance with the usual ceremonials of the order; also, in behalf of the Clinton Historical Society, for whose benefit the building is erected, that you will place the provided box of documents beneath the stone.

3. Response by the Grand Master, M. W. Baalis Sanford.
4. Responsive Reading of Selections from the Scriptures, by W. Rev. Charles A. Skinner, D.D., Grand Chaplain, and the Brethren.
5. Prayer, by the Grand Chaplain.
6. Reading of List of Contents of the Box, by Albert N. Blodgett, the acting Grand Treasurer.

LIST OF ARTICLES.

History of Clinton, by A. E. Ford; Semi-Centennial Memorial volume, 1900, A. E. Ford, editor; History of Holder Family, by C. F. Holder; Clinton Town Reports, 1904; List of Poll Tax Payers, 1903; Clinton, Illustrated; Taxable Estates and Valuations, 1901; Town By-Laws; History of Old Trinity Lodge, by Jonathan Smith; Masonic Directory—Commandery, Chapter, and Lodge; Lancaster Lodge Odd Fellows' Directory; Clinton Lodge Odd Fellows' Directory—Encampment Officers; Grand Army Roster—Post 64, Ladies' Relief, Sons of Veterans, Daughters of Veterans; Mary Washington Chapter, D. R.—Constitution and Membership; Wekepeke Council, Royal Arcanum—Directory; Clinton Historical Society—By-laws and Membership; Bigelow Free Public Library Catalogue; Worcester East Agricultural Society—Officers and Premium List, 1904; Annual Report Clinton Hospital Association, 1904; Annual Report Metropolitan Water Board, Jan. 1, 1904; Congregational Church Manual; Baptist Church Articles of Faith; The Congregationalist; The Watchman; The United Presbyterian; The Churchman; Zion's Herald; The Christian Register; The Republic; Bigelow Carpet Company's Exhibit at St.

Louis Exposition, picture of Weaving Mill, and picture of Spinning Mills; Lancaster Mills—Picture, with Manufacturing Statistics; Clinton Wire Cloth Mills, picture of; Wachusett Dam, two views, above and below. Local Records: Courant—Lancaster's 250th Anniversary, 1903; description of Free Public Library building; description of Holder Memorial Building; History of Baptist Church, by C. M. Bowers; Reminiscences of Chapel Hill School, by W. E. Parkhurst. Item—Clinton's Semi-Centennial Record, illustrated, 1900; Needs of Clinton, by Rev. J. C. Duncan.

7. Application of the Jewels to the Corner-stone.
8. Libation of Corn, by the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. William H. Emerson.

When once of old, in Israel,  
Our early Brethren wrought with toil,  
Jehovah's blessing on them fell  
In showers of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

9. Libation of Wine, by the Senior Grand Warden, R. W. J. Gilman Waite.

When there a shrine to Him alone  
They built, with worship, sin to foil,  
On threshold and on corner-stone,  
They poured out Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

10. Libation of Oil, by the Junior Grand Warden, R. W. William H. H. Soule.

And we have come, fraternal bands,  
With joy and pride, and prosperous spoil,  
To honor Him by votive hands  
With streams of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

11. Invocation, by the Grand Chaplain.
12. Presentation of Working Tools to Architect.
13. Address, by Rev. Bro. James C. Duncan.

*Friends and Fellow-Citizens:*

The occasion that brings us together suggests many thoughts upon which we might dwell with both pleasure and profit. When the noble structure whose corner-stone we have met to see laid in its place, comes to be dedicated, ample opportunity will doubtless be given for the exposition

of its significance to this community. A humbler task has been laid upon me; it is to indicate, with the brevity that an outdoor celebration in midsummer demands, some of the uses which this building is designed to fulfill.

Before indicating what these uses are, let me say that many other themes present themselves, inviting our consideration. And it is only by holding a tight rein upon the imagination that we can keep to the straight and narrow path that the occasion requires. What an inviting theme, for example, the presence of the Masons and the meaning of the interesting ceremony which we have witnessed! How tempting to dwell at some length upon the history of Freemasonry, how a trade came to be a world-wide moral and social organization for the building of temples, not made with hands, but of living temples, temples of the Holy Spirit! The true Mason is an expert in the art of character-building, for by the use of the Holy Bible, square and compasses, he is enabled to make himself a perfect man. How tempting, too, to utilize this hour in dwelling upon the development of our town, and in showing how much the Holder Memorial will add to its attractiveness and educational advantages. But I must dismiss all these inviting themes and confine my remarks to the purpose of the building.

So you will see that if I experience any embarrassment on this occasion it arises, not from having nothing to say, but rather in knowing what not to say. But I trust that I know where and when to stop.

It is the intention of the builder of this edifice to present it to the Clinton Historical Society. That means that it will be used as a place for preserving articles of local historic interest. It is needless for me to dwell on the desirability of preserving such articles. Without them the town could not know its own history; and history is to a community what memory is to an individual. How would any of us like to rise in the morning and remember nothing of our former life? We would be utter strangers to ourselves. A



town without a history is like a man without a memory—a stranger to itself.

"Know thyself" is as good advice to a community as to an individual. But for the acquirement of this self-knowledge history is as essential to the community as memory to the individual. History is the collective memory. Through history men and women learn to know themselves. They recall what the world, the nation, the town was before they were born. To know history is to extend the boundaries of one's own being. The more history a man knows the larger his mind becomes. This was what Emerson meant when he wrote, as the motto of his essay on history:

"I am owner of the sphere,  
Of the seven stars and the solar year,  
Of Cæsar's hand and Plato's brain,  
Of Lord Christ's heart and Shakspeare's strain."

The part played by our local organization in diffusing the knowledge of history is comparatively humble. For it does not contemplate entering upon the wide field of general history. Its attention will be confined largely to local affairs. In this building will be preserved everything that can be procured to throw light on the past and ever passing life of this town and vicinity, relics, letters, documents, newspapers, programs, books, anything and everything that will make the past live and remind men that their life sends roots deep down into the soil of time.

I recall visiting in Berlin some years ago a building in which the life of the House of Hohenzollern was as faithfully reproduced as art and history could reproduce it, from the earliest times to the present. As I passed from room to room of that building it seemed as if I was passing from generation to generation of that illustrious family and seeing it grow to its present gigantic proportions before my very eyes. It was like being present at the creation of the German Empire. Something of that kind I should like to see done in this building, so that the school-boy entering here could see the town growing before his eyes from the

time that John Prescott built his mill on yonder brook in the midst of a howling wilderness until through the industry and energy and sagacity of men like Poignand and Plant, the Bigelows, the Harrises, Franklin Forbes, George W. Weeks and many others too numerous to mention, Clinton has become as one of our own poetesses has sung :

“A bright cosy town of valley and hills,  
All thriving with school-houses, churches and mills;  
Where green drooping branches arch over the street,  
And Industry shines on the faces you meet;  
Where houses are homes, where childhood is gay,  
And Order and Honesty ever hold sway”—

and he is inspired to contribute his share to the upbuilding of our beloved town.

To this memorial building may citizens and strangers seeking the truth concerning the origin and development of this section of the commonwealth come and find the facts they seek.

Do not imagine, however, that cold facts are all that is to be found within these walls. For while this is to be a temple of truth, it is also to be a temple of beauty. Nor do I refer to the structure alone. That the building itself will be solid and beautiful what we already see furnishes abundant evidence, while those having seen the plans know full well that it is to be as strong and proof against fire and water as a building can be built, and withal wondrously pleasing to look upon. But it will not be until we have passed within these doors that the full meaning of the phrase “temple of beauty” will enter our minds. That the interior finish will harmonize with the exterior goes without saying, and that in itself is sufficient guarantee that it will be beautiful without and within. Not, however, until we come to look at the paintings on the walls and the statuary on the pedestals, which it is the purpose of the builder some day to bring here, shall we realize how much the erection of this edifice means to the town of Clinton.

Here will be preserved, besides old relics and bare facts,

the rarest works of art. Valuable paintings will adorn these walls and costly statues occupy these floors. Thus will the Holder Memorial be a source not only of instruction in the truth of the town's history, but of enjoyment in beholding beautiful art treasures. Not that I think the highest function of art is to give pleasure, for I hold that the chief service of art is to inspire men and women to realize the ideal life. The vision of the beautiful in nature and human nature, leads the seer to make his own life beautiful. Art is one of the greatest moral and spiritual forces in the world, and we should hail with delight the prospect of having an art collection to which we can come and catch glimpses of the ideal. Think of the sermons delivered on the dignity of labor by such pictures as the "Angelus" or the "Sower," or on the Glory of Motherhood by the "Sistine Madonna"—lessons which the better classes of our modern American society cannot ignore without peril to themselves and the nation.

It is the mission of the artist not so much to copy what everybody sees in nature and life as it is to reproduce his own personal vision. And the vision of the artistic soul is oftentimes very different from that of the average man or woman. "I assert for myself," said the poet-painter, William Blake, "that I do not behold the outward creation, and that to me it is hindrance and not action. 'What!' it will be questioned, 'when the sun rises do you not see a round disk of fire, somewhat like a guinea?' Oh, no, no, I see an innumerable company of the heavenly host crying, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.' I question not my corporeal eye any more than I would question a window concerning a sight. I look through it and not with it." That is the answer of the idealist to the realist in art. The true artist interprets nature and life and leads us to see colors and meanings in them that we never saw before. For example, among the many delightful walks or drives in this vicinity few are finer than that between here and Bolton. On one of those roads there is a particularly pleasing bit of

scenery not far from the residence of J. Wyman Jones. But its real charm I never realized until I saw recently a picture of it painted by a Clinton boy. It is a flock of sheep grazing in an orchard on a fine autumn evening. The picture is not large, but the coloring and spirit of it are exquisite. It makes one appreciate as he never appreciated before the glory of our New England hillsides. They may not have the romance of the heathery hills of bonnie Scotland, but there is a beauty and tranquility about them exceedingly pleasing and restful to weary spirits. And we have a right to congratulate ourselves that we have in our midst one who has the gift of revealing the beauty of our local scenery. What more fitting than that some day one of his pictures should find a place within these walls.

We come now to the third and last use for which this building is designed. Though I mention it last, it is really primary and central. For this is above all else a memorial building. The moving thought in the mind of the builder is to commemorate his honored father and mother. This edifice is supremely a memorial to virtue, for the chief claim that David and Ruth Holder have to be remembered is that they were honest and honorable citizens. Speaking of this worthy couple, the author of "The Holders of Holderness" assures us that "David was a man of sterling qualities, whose word was as good as his bond in the community in which he lived. He was educated at one of the large institutions of learning of the time, and married Ruth Bassett, a beautiful woman, who sat upon the high seat in the meetings of the society of "Friends." Time forbids my giving a detailed description of the lives of David and Ruth Holder, or of dwelling on the excellent quality of Quaker blood that runs in the veins of the Holders. Suffice it to say that David Holder was the descendant of Christopher, who in the seventeenth century suffered agonies for his religion. For as much as four years and a half he lay in prison on account of his faith. "His pardon came," says Professor Holder, "with the accession of James II, who released the



DAVID HOLDER





Quakers from jails all over England and gave them liberty of conscience. Broken in health by his long imprisonment and by the many terrible experiences he had passed through, Christopher Holder returned to his home. With William Penn, George Fox, Edward Burroughs and others he was a sturdy figure standing out in strong relief in this era of intolerance and bigotry, and one of the advance guards of the culture and refinement of the following centuries."

Such was the illustrious ancestor of the man to whose memory and that of his wife this building is being erected. David Holder was by trade a shoemaker, and his wife for a time kept a boarding-house at the foot of this street, charging the girls for room and board the amazing sum of eighty-three cents per week. That she could make both ends meet and yet save something is sufficient testimony that she was a woman of ability who looked well to the ways of her household, and ate not the bread of idleness. No marvel that her children rise up and call her blessed. Of David Holder, I can learn little more than that he was a man of sterling character, and for his day and generation well educated. While living in Bolton he planted with his own hand many of the fine trees which now cast their welcome shade along the roads. By some strange mistake, David has become mixed up with his eldest brother, Joseph. In the *Military Annals of Lancaster*, by Henry S. Nourse, there is a paragraph about an obscure Quaker shoemaker who lived in Bolton, who made slippers for Parisian belles and Cuban ladies. Our townsman and historian, Mr. A. E. Ford, quotes this passage in his "History of the Origin of Clinton," and gives us to understand that this wonderful maker of slippers was no other than David Holder. But I am informed on the best authority that the famous shoemaker of Bolton was not David, but his eldest brother, Joseph. To be sure it is all in the family, but in matters historical we cannot be too careful in getting at the truth.

I have spoken of this because I wish to emphasize the importance of having this magnificent edifice erected to a

man and a woman whose only title to remembrance are the common qualities of honor, and honesty, and industry, and fidelity to one another. But are these qualities so very common? Are all men and women honest and honorable and industrious and faithful? We have but to ask the question to realize the radical improvement that would take place in society were all men and women as good as David and Ruth Holder. We erect monuments in abundance to the memory of great men and women, and we do well, but here is a monument erected by a loving son to his honored father and mother.

As we pass along this street and behold this beautiful building, and much more when we enter the spacious doorway and see the faces of David and Ruth Holder looking down upon us from their frames above the fireplace, we shall be reminded of no unwonted deeds of heroism, but of humble, simple, faithful living, and be inspired to do our nearest duty with a contented and happy heart.

These, then, are some of the principal uses for which this edifice is designed—the pursuit of truth, the enjoyment of beauty and the remembrance of simple goodness as manifested in the happy though humble lives of David and Ruth Holder. We congratulate ourselves as citizens of Clinton in having in our midst this magnificent building designed for these high uses. And our hearts go out in gratitude to him from whose generosity this great and good work proceeds.

His absence on this occasion we greatly deplore. But even if a previous business engagement had not called him away, it is doubtful if his modesty could have endured the inevitable conspicuousness attendant upon his presence here today.

This brings me to the last and most delicate word I have to speak; for when the benefactor lives, good taste forbids many words. And yet is not one of the finest features of this occasion the fact that though the builder of this memorial has passed his three score years and ten he is yet alive and well, able to enjoy the fruit of his labor and to watch



RUTH BASSETT HOLDER

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with commendable pride the rising of these walls to the memory of those he loved and honored? In erecting this building while still living Mr. Holder sets an example in munificence that it is to be hoped many will follow. Consideration for his feelings forbids us to sing his praise as it deserves to be sung and as it shall some day be sung. But we cannot refrain from nor would he object to our commending him to the safe-keeping of the good Being who gave him the power to get wealth, and who put it into his heart to administer it with wisdom and righteousness. May he long be spared to enjoy the work of his hands, and may multitudes for many generations, as they enter the Holder Memorial either to seek truth, admire the beautiful or praise virtue, rise up and ask God to bless the life and the labor of Francis T. Holder.

14. Proclamation, by the Grand Marshal, W. Frank W. Mead.
15. Hymn, America. Sung by the Audience.
16. Benediction, by the Grand Chaplain.

## Terms and Nature of the Gift.

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IN the months which followed the laying of the cornerstone the members of the Clinton Historical Society watched with deep interest the growth of the Holder Memorial Building as it rose, enduring in its structure, stately in its proportions and beautiful in its adornment. During the winter and spring came the work on the interior, which, in the taste displayed and in the perfection of the finish, as well as in the completeness of the appointments, entirely fulfilled the promise of the exterior. By the middle of September, not only had the building been completed even to minute details, but the entrance hall, the assembly room, the directors' room and the toilet rooms had been furnished in harmony with the finish of the interior. Some of the larger pieces of furniture needed in the rooms of the janitor had also been provided. All this was done by Mr. Holder. One characteristic gift should not pass unnoticed. This was a flag, which was to be hung from the portico. It was Mr. Holder's desire that it should often be flung to the breeze, and should thus symbolize the patriotic uses to which the building should be devoted.

Meanwhile matters connected with the terms of transfer and provisions for maintenance were discussed by Mr. Holder and his representative, John H. Coyne, Esq., on the one hand, and the Clinton Historical Society, represented by its directors, on the other. Mr. Holder was ready to do everything needed in the most liberal way, and simply wished to know what the society thought desirable, while the society was trying to determine the lines of its



development, so as to find out what its future needs might be. The outcome of these discussions may best be learned from the terms of the conveyance.

The property, including land, building and furnishings, all of which had cost Francis T. Holder somewhat in excess of eighty-two thousand dollars, was conveyed to the Clinton Historical Society with no reservations except the following, which are in fact more in the nature of provisions for future benefactions than reservations.

"Reserving to the use of said grantor and his heirs the large room in the second story on the east side of said building for the deposit and exhibition of such articles and memorials as he or they may desire to place therein; reserving also to him or them the right to place and maintain on the walls of the rooms portraits of the father and mother of said grantor and the Holder family crest; and further reserving to said grantor the privilege of placing paintings on the panels of the main hall as he may desire; and also reserving to said grantor, his heirs and the members of the Holder family, the right to enter said building or any part thereof freely at any and all reasonable times."

It may be said here that the paintings of David and Ruth Bassett Holder and, at the special request of the society, that of Francis T. Holder, already adorn the walls of the hall. These paintings are the work of the New York artist, Bayard H. Tyler. They are all most life-like in their portraiture, and seem to welcome all visitors to the building with gracious hospitality.

As regards the last provision, that of the right of entering the building to the members of the Holder family, the society accepted this most gratefully as an indication that it might sometimes be favored with the presence of the donor and those related to him. It was with this feeling that at the meeting in which the gift was accepted the society voted: "Both as an expression of the thankfulness of the society and of its desire that it may still have the benefit of his wise counsels and, if it may be, of his genial presence,

that Francis T. Holder be made an honorary member of the Clinton Historical Society, with all the rights and privileges appertaining to regular membership, and that his co-workers in preparing this gift and arranging for the dedication thereof, Elizabeth W. Holder, Charles F. Holder, John H. Coyne (his attorney), and Emil Grewey (the architect), also be made honorable members of the society," with the same rights and privileges.

The following is the provision for maintenance:

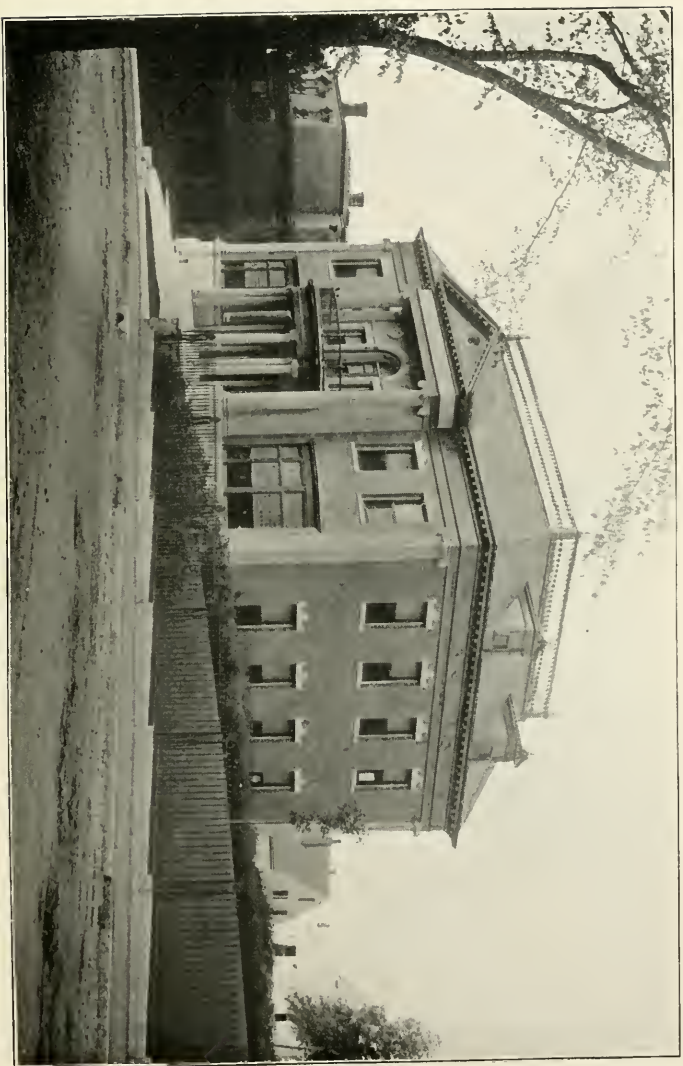
"The said Francis T. Holder covenants and agrees that he will pay to the said Clinton Historical Society annually on or about the first day of September during his lifetime the sum of one thousand dollars, to be used and applied by said society for the support and maintenance of the grounds and the building thereon, known as the Holder Memorial, and that he will donate or bequeath by his will to said society or other corporation or individual in trust the further sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, the net income thereof to be used after his death for the aforesaid purposes."

The Clinton Historical Society was unbound by any agreements, save that in the event, "if it shall cease to be or exist as a corporation, or neglect to carry out the purposes of its incorporation, then the estate hereby granted shall cease, determine and be void and of no effect, and this estate and title shall revert to the said Francis T. Holder;" also, that the "payment" or "trust" "shall cease," under the same conditions.

Few, if any, historical societies devoted to the local interests of so small a community have ever received a gift so munificent. It remains for the society to do a work commensurate with its endowment, and the character of its membership is such that it may be confidently expected that every effort will be made to attain this end.

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The Holder Memorial is centrally located on the north side of Church Street, midway between the busiest corner of High Street and Walnut Street. The post-office is nearly



THE HOLDER MEMORIAL.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

opposite, and next to that is the Bank Block. The ample grounds of the public library adjoin the Holder Memorial on the east. From the windows one can look out to the southeast on the beautiful Central Park close by, around which stand so many of the public buildings of the town.

The Holder Memorial lot is a part of the land which was originally granted in 1653 to John Prescott, the first settler in the territory now occupied by the town of Clinton. It remained in the hands of the family for five generations, until about the close of the eighteenth century. Among the later owners were Nathaniel Lowe, Emory Harris, Horatio N. Bigelow, Samuel Belyea, who built the first house upon the lot, and Dr. George W. Burdett, who bought the house and lot in 1867. In 1903, the premises were conveyed by Elisabeth J. Burdett, widow of Dr. George W. Burdett, to Francis T. Holder.

The lot has a street frontage of ninety-five and eight-tenths feet, and an average depth of about one hundred and seventy feet, with a total area of sixteen thousand four hundred and thirty-five square feet. As the building is set only thirty feet from the street in a line with the neighboring buildings, most of the rear half of the lot is unoccupied. The driveway is on the west of the lot, next to the estate of Dr. James J. Goodwin, while the building is within about four feet of the library lot on the other side. A retaining and boundary wall, built in the most thorough fashion of bonded granite, with a sawn blue-stone coping and surmounted with an iron fence, runs on the east of the building from the sidewalk. The retaining wall, built in the same fashion, is continued within a few feet of the rear of the building as far as the driveway, and there is also a similar wall from the front of the building westward to the driveway. A finished granite curbing marks the boundary between the well-graded lawn and the sidewalk.

At the foundation, the front of the building is sixty-five feet ten inches in length, and the side is fifty feet and one inch; a projection twenty-four feet and four inches long in

the center of the rear is carried back three feet and four inches further.

The architect, Emil Grewey, of Yonkers, New York, has furnished the following statement about the architecture of the building:

#### STATEMENT OF ARCHITECT.

While sketching the preliminary studies for the Holder Memorial Building, certain suggestions from the donor regarding the central hall of the Memorial and its fire-place led most naturally to the adoption of the American Colonial Style for its construction. The large open hearth with its traditions was an inspiration and became the key-note of the entire architectural theme.

Having no fixed standard of expression in architecture, unless it be that of pure beauty, it was thought possible that a reproduction of the architectural forms of our colonial mansions, might thus reflect and recall the home life and fortitude of the founders of our republic. These forms are reproduced in the lofty hall with its vast and hospitable fire-place, the interior gallery, giving access to the second-story rooms at each side, a faithful adherence to the best Colonial models down to the minutest details, handrails, balusters, wainscot, mouldings, etc.

Many of the external features of the Holder Memorial are modified reproductions of the best examples of American Colonial. The steep slated roofs, the dormer windows, the forceful central treatment with its pediment, the columns of the porch, etc., can be traced to the Arnold Mansion in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia; other features to the Zion Church in the same city, also to Governor Langden's house in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and other similar structures erected in pre-revolutionary times.

The exterior front of the Holder Memorial is a sincere exposition of the interior anatomy of the building. It is accentuated by means of cornices and pilasters corresponding with the interior divisions. The principal entrance and



porch are richly treated by setting groups of Corinthian columns, fluted pilasters and ornamental iron railings.

Variety and unity have been obtained by a judicious grouping of materials combined with due regard to their texture and color. The deep red bricks, laid in Flemish bond, and the walls constitute the main body of the structure. The granite bases and pedestals, the terra-cotta columns and pilasters, the copper mouldings, etc., are all subordinated to one principle and assist in forming a correlation of forms and harmony of colors satisfying to the eye and mind.

The American Colonial Style and its history may be confined within the limits of a phrase. It is simply a rational adaptation of the best features of Italian Renaissance, modified to conform with domestic and climatic conditions. The colonial carpenters faithfully copied the mouldings from text-books of that period, such as Chamber's Encyclopedia of Architecture. They did not attempt to improve the Italian masters, and therein they differed from their English brothers. The American Colonial is chiefly distinguished from the so-called English Georgian by a studied delicacy and finished treatment of the mouldings, a certain reticence and absence of heavy or vulgar ornamentation.

In the construction of the Holder Memorial, it has been attempted to revive the spirit of the style, not only of its traditions, but also of its inherent beauty, simplicity and reposeful appearance. These qualities make it an admirable medium to illustrate the purposes for which the memorial is erected—a repository for works of art, mementos of our past history, a temple to education and a monument dedicated to the memory of worthy parents.

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This statement with the accompanying picture will give a good idea of the exterior of the building if one keeps in mind the great amount of copper used, the remarkable quality of the pressed brick, the perfection of the mason

work and the excellence of the plate glass and the leaded crown glass.

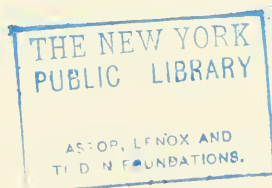
The central hall, twenty feet wide and about forty long, is open to the roof, from which a great window pours an abundant flood of light. The huge fire-place of buff brick, the heart of the room and building, with its great crane, its andirons, its hobs, and its mantle with electric candles, first meets the eye of the visitor, then the portraits of David and Ruth Bassett Holder on either side, and that of Francis T. Holder on the right wall, then he glances for a moment to the pleasing pattern of the tiled floor and the two large circular leather-covered seats in the center of the room, then he looks aloft to the gallery, the panelled walls, sometime, perhaps, to be filled with paintings, the cornice and the great window of Florentine glass.

The whole of the eastern side of this floor is occupied by the assembly room, which is forty-five feet and eight inches long by nineteen feet and four inches wide. It has been furnished with one hundred and twenty-six seats, a reading desk, a desk for the clerk and platform chairs. On the west side, there is to the south a room for the directors nineteen feet and four inches by about twenty-four feet of average length. This is furnished with a beautiful large table and chairs. The rear room on the west is thirteen feet by nineteen feet four inches. This is to be used for the present as a library and exhibition room, and is being fitted up with a large book-case and show-cases. Between these rooms are the stairways and the men's toilet-room. The stairway to the second story, though pleasing, is not especially emphasized. There are two small rooms in the rear of the hall behind the massive chimney.

The rooms on the second floor opening from the galleries correspond in form and size to the rooms below. The room on the east is to be used for Mr. Holder's collection, and a large cabinet is already planned for it. In this room the great folding doors are a notable feature, and the outlook on the library grounds and the Central Park is most



THE CENTRAL HALL



pleasing. The use of the rooms on the west side of this floor is not yet determined, and will depend upon the direction in which the collections of the society especially develop. A small room opening out of the northwest room takes the place of the men's toilet-room on the floor below. The rooms behind the chimney stack are toilet-rooms for women.

All the rooms of the first and second floors are in cherry with mahogany finish, and all have a high panelled wainscot. The furniture is also finished in mahogany. All the door furniture is of solid old brass. The walls are sand-finished and tinted in distemper. The color, a terra-cotta verging on pink, harmonizes most beautifully with the mahogany finish. The floors of the first story, except the two small rooms, are of tile in concrete. The hexagonal tiles are less than an inch in area, and are combined in white ground with a conventional figure of sage green and dull yellow. In the border the dull green and yellow prevail, with a touch of red to bring it into accord with the woodwork. The floors in the other rooms are of hard wood on concrete. The ceilings are all in white with plaster of paris finish. They all have elaborate cornices and mouldings.

The electric lighting system is so complete that the rooms are lighted most brilliantly, and are more beautiful by night than by day. In the lower hall and two east rooms, the lights are within globes attached to the ceiling. These are on three circuits. With a single circuit the rooms are abundantly lighted, and the three together make them exceedingly bright. Just below the great roof window there is on all sides another line of lights which are reflected from the white curves of the plaster. The fixtures elsewhere in the building, in the other rooms, at the stairs and in the gallery, are of unique and pleasing designs, and serve not only for lighting, but also as ornaments to the building.

Open plumbing of the best quality is everywhere used. Here as elsewhere beauty accompanies utility. The heating is done by the Gurney hot water system, with abundant radiation. The building is completely fitted with the best of shades and screens.

On the upper floor there is one finished room for the janitor and two great storerooms. In the basement a kitchen, a sitting-room, a bath-room and a laundry are fitted up for the janitor, and there is a coat-room for general use. The rest of the basement is thoroughly concreted throughout.

The concrete floors, the brick partitions, the iron, tile and slate of the roof, render the building completely fire-proof in its construction.

Every department of work has been done with all possible care by most skillful workmen. The credit for this perfection is due to the donor, to the architect, to the contractors, J. W. Bishop & Co. of Worcester, and to David H. Maynard who acted as the agent of Mr. Holder in keeping oversight of the work.



## The Dedication.

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AT the quarterly meeting of the society, June 12, 1905, it was voted: "that the directors, together with the treasurer and clerk, be a committee to arrange for the dedication exercises of the Memorial Building." At a meeting of the committee held two days later, Jonathan Smith was made chairman and A. E. Ford, secretary. Later, the following committees were appointed by the chairman: Hall, H. F. Hartwell, W. O. Johnson; Luncheon, Neil Walker, H. A. Burdett; Program, J. C. Duncan, W. E. Parkhurst; Music, E. W. Burdett, Nellie L. Ford; Invitations, A. E. Ford, Jennie S. Dame; Reception, W. I. Jenkins, C. C. Stone, Lucius Field, C. L. French, W. P. Bowers. September 20 was fixed upon as the date for the dedication.

The exercises, which were held at Bigelow Hall at thirty, were open to the public, with a particular invitation to the members of the High School. Special invitations to exercises and luncheon were sent in the name of Francis T. Holder and the Clinton Historical Society, to every descendant of Christopher Holder whose address was known, to certain prominent Quakers and to all attendants on the Quaker meeting in Bolton, to the presidents of the historical societies of Massachusetts, and to certain national, state, county and town officials. Members of the society could purchase tickets for themselves and one guest each.

The reception committee met the guests arriving on the trains at the station and saw that they were carried to the Memorial Building, where an informal reception was held until ten-fifteen; then all went to Bigelow Hall, which had

been well decorated for the occasion. All the seats in the hall were occupied before the hour for beginning came.

The literary exercises were carried out in accordance with the following program :

SELECTION—"Praise ye the Father." . . . . *Gounod*

HARVARD QUARTET.

Jewell Boyd, L. M. Bartlett, W. B. Phillips, J. L. Thomas.

PRAYER—Rev. Charles M. Bowers, D. D.

Charles M. Bowers, D. D., is in his eighty-ninth year, and was made pastor of the Baptist Church in Clintonville in 1847.

WORDS OF WELCOME—Jonathan Smith, president of the Clinton Historical Society.

*Mr. Francis T. Holder, Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

The Clinton Historical Society greets you with a cordial welcome to the festivities of this interesting occasion. It is no ordinary event which has called us together. All nature is in sympathy with the purposes for which we have assembled, for a clouded sky sheds no tears of gentle rain upon the exercises of this hour. Your eager, attentive faces speak the joy which fills the heart that an enterprise so long and so fondly anticipated has now come to fulfillment. We welcome you, sir, and congratulate you that you can now see in all its dignity and beauty the finished structure which expresses in enduring brick and granite the filial and family affection which inspired the thought and guided the hand in the design and construction of the Holder Memorial Building. To you it marks the completion of a long cherished and benevolent purpose. To us, the wards of your bounty, it will be a constant admonition to imitate the virtues which prompted the gift.

The founder and donor of this memorial, Mr. Francis T. Holder, of Yonkers, New York, is a native of Clinton, and is the son of the late David and Ruth Bassett Holder. The parents were Quakers in religious faith, and their son,

desiring to embody in some permanent form the inestimable debt he owed them for their parental affection, their private worth and civic virtue, decided to express it in the way which is now before you. Fortunately for this people, he chose the town of his nativity, where his parents lived many years, for its location, and happily for this organization, he selected the Clinton Historical Society as his trustee to take the legal title and care for the trust. Learning, in the fall of 1903, that the historical society would probably accept the privilege, after many conferences with its members for their suggestions and wishes, he completed his sketches and placed them in the hands of Mr. Emil Grewey of Yonkers, as architect, to draw out the plans and specifications. The lot, occupied by the late Dr. George W. Burdett, on Church Street, was selected as on the whole the best site for the edifice. On the tenth day of May, 1904, the ground was broken and the work, entrusted to J. W. Bishop & Co. of Worcester, contractors, went rapidly forward. The corner-stone was laid on the thirtieth of July in the same year, with imposing Masonic ceremonies, by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in the presence of a large assembly of people, and the early summer of this year saw the structure completed, the grounds graded, and everything in readiness for its transfer, under the conditions agreed upon, to this society. In design, in material employed, in thoroughness of workmanship and in beauty of finish the edifice is a triumph of the builder's art.

It is fortunate in its situation. It stands opposite the school, near to the public park, and next to the public library. In the uses for which it is designed it will supplement and complete the work of all three and crowns the list of those educational forces which work for the real happiness and well being of a people. We have invited you here that you may see with your own eyes how great is the good fortune which has come to us, and that you may join with us in dedicating this memorial to the noble purposes for which it was erected.

It is to this service, then, that we welcome you, the kith and kin of the generous donor, for here will be a safe and fitting repository for your family memorials, where they can be kept for the instruction and pleasure of your descendants. We welcome you who are of the same household of faith with the parents in whose honor it was built. May it henceforth be a rallying place for all those who follow the "Inward Light," and love Peace, for it is to the Cause of "Good Will to Men" that it is also consecrated. We welcome you, the official representatives of Massachusetts, that you may see, in its concrete form, an expression of those high ideals of domestic affection and public spirit which have placed our beloved state at the head of a long line of American commonwealths, and have made its people the highest types of our civilization. And we welcome you, fellow-citizens of Clinton, you to whom this institution means so much and for whom it is laden with so many hopes for the future. We welcome you all, to join with us in this service of dedication and to share with us in the common joy.

ADDRESS—"The Old and the New," by Hon. Alfred S. Roe of Worcester.

"Each generation gathers together the imperishable children of the past, and increases them by new sons of light, alike radiant with immortality."—*Bancroft*.

In one of the busiest centers of this commonwealth, ever conspicuous for thrift and enterprise, in the forepart of a midweek day, when the whirl of machinery is at its highest pitch, we are gathered to dedicate a beautiful and costly edifice to historical purposes. The circumstances which render the event possible are alike creditable to giver and recipients, for if we laud the generosity of the son who thus filially remembers his native town, what shall we not say of the old home which so impressed itself upon him that long years of absence only intensified the affection so early engendered here? Both are entitled to our praise and admiration.

The disposition of prosperous people to remember their early home by building or endowment has had many illustrations in Massachusetts; perhaps no other portion of our country equals the Bay State in this particular, for already more than one hundred and fifty loyal sons and daughters have wrought their memories into library structures, and as many more have shown their devotion in donating public parks, soldiers' monuments, hospitals, meeting-houses, schools and colleges.

When Francis T. Holder sought his birthplace with generous intent, he found the usual locations for liberality already occupied. Library and hospital on solid foundations were evidencing the fealty of other sons. Education and religion were adequately maintained by those directly interested; town hall and war's sad token had long been in existence. What then was there which, in builded form, might continue an honored name and at the same time indicate the donor's love for scenes hallowed by recollections of boyhood and early manhood.

Fortunately, Mr. Holder's attention was drawn to the advantages of a well-housed historical society. The most influential societies in the commonwealth, even that of the state and the American Antiquarian, were once no larger than that of Clinton. All were started for the meritorious purpose of preserving the ancient landmarks and the records of the past. A strictly local society finds its most valuable work in collecting and retaining relics and records of its immediate vicinity. Its collections need not consist alone in written and printed matter, for flora, fauna, and fossils contribute no less to the true record of a township than those made by man. An institution like this of Clinton, properly managed and developed, may raise up scholars who shall be to this prospective city what Gilbert White was to Selborne and Thomas Edwards and Robert Dick were to the north of Scotland.

So then we have here most beautifully blended the Old and the New, the latter in all the refulgence of modern art



and science, in the shape of the Holder Memorial, is to keep in its embrace the storied treasures of the past, whether material or otherwise. The old finds here a safe harborage. Yet in the face of all this outlay and these preparations for coming years, it were easy for those thus disposed to shoot shafts of ridicule at people inclined to antiquarian research. The polished wit of Charles Dickens has made vivid for many a year the deliberations of the Pickwick Club over the leader's antiquarian discovery of the bit of paving-stone with its famous inscription, "BILL STUMPS HIS MARK." Even Sir Walter Scott, himself the most devoted of antiquaries, has left us scarcely more than travesties of men who have found delight in tracing the antique and hidden. His Dominie Sampson must ever conjure up a nondescript figure with the word "Prodigious." Snuffie Davy, successful collector of Elzevirs though he was, we would hardly care to emulate, and Jonathan Oldbuck, the antiquarian himself, is a far-fetched creation.

On the contrary, the later antiquary is a man of affairs, interested in all that pertains to the welfare of humanity, as delighted in the latest event as in those of yesterday; indeed, were I to name the ideal historical student and true delver in antiquity, I should recall our late United States Senator, George F. Hoar, who, amid the multifarious duties of his public life, found time to seek out and secure a vast array of material precious in the eyes of the student of the past. Witness his long devotion to the story of Rufus Putnam and the settlement of the Northwest, and his determination that the Rutland home should be preserved. How many relics did he bring from beyond seas to properly embellish and equip that structure whose age goes back to the Revolutionary period! His own home was crowded with tangible evidence of his love for the Old. What treasures could not that chest of drawers, a prominent object in his study, reveal of people whose deeds laid hold on the early history of the nation! Hard by is a chest whose existence is coeval with that of an English ancestor of centuries



since, and there is a door from the house in which dwelt his forbears long before John Hoar thought of migrating to America. That the Senator was an active participant in the affairs of today every one was well aware, particularly those who presumed to attack any one of his public positions.

Probably no one event in his long and useful life gave Senator Hoar more pleasure and conferred more happiness upon the American people than his successful efforts to have restored to this country and commonwealth the long lost manuscript, history of "Plimoth Plantation," by Governor Bradford. The scene on that 26th day of May, 1897, when the recently occupied Representative Hall of the State House in Boston was crowded by the most distinguished of her sons and daughters, will not soon be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have a place there. The best of talent in depicting historic scenes should have made a study of the men prominent in the acts of that day. Did Massachusetts ever have a more graceful presiding officer than Roger Walcott, who was governor then? Ex-Senator Thomas F. Bayard of Delaware, so recently ambassador at the British court, was there to render back to this people the volume after its more than a century's absence, and the story that the Senator told on that occasion must ever linger as a delightful memory to him who heard and with those who read. Only one who reveres the past, who loves the old, could weave into a twenty minutes' address so much that every true American should know and feel. In Senator Hoar's words, "Not till there shall be revealed a manuscript of one of the four Gospels can be seen a document so valuable to Americans as this," we may know how he appreciated it. And yet the man who could speak thus glowingly of the Old was the same who in 1881, during the somewhat acrid discussion over the admission of Senator Mahone of Virginia, said: "There are Democrats in the South who do not intend to live any longer in the graveyards and among the toombs, whose face is toward

the morning and upon whose brow the rising sunlight of the future glory of this country is already beginning to be visible." With those words ringing in his ears, who can doubt the great senator's devotion to the New?

The twentieth century antiquary is no more a Dryasdust. Who will dare to call him even a Quid Nunc? He no longer differs in dress and manner from his fellows. In Boston, Ex-Mayer Green, the matchless annalist of his native Groton, becomes the librarian and custodian of the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. In New York the antiquary is the guardian of the priceless collections of the combined Astor, Lenox and Tilden foundations, or he is J. P. Morgan, acquiring all that Europe has to sell of a literary, artistic or antiquarian character. In Worcester, he is the banker, lawyer, insurance man, physician and clergyman. In Clinton, he is your business man, editor, minister and school-master; so let there be an end of the notion that, owing to his fondness for the Old, our antiquary has less appreciation for the New. Eugene Field, with his whimsical interest in the wisdom of the ancients, the life of the daily gatherings at McClurg's bookstore, was surely up-to-date and, while he doted on all that was old in literature, gave us the choicest of the new in the same literary way.

With such a happy blending of the past and the present and with a confident look towards the future, the citizens of this thriving township, just nearing the confines of a city organization, look with pride upon the edifice in which, as the years advance, shall be gathered the best that they have to give *in memoriam*. Though there may be no manuscript of superlative value to be returned, accompanied by the pomp and circumstance of listening senates, yet Clinton has her own story well worth preserving. The nearer we get to the individual, usually the greater our interest, and here will be told in coming time the records of lives passed in this township or nearby. Carlyle has said that biography is the only true history. Your local historian, Principal Andrew E. Ford, has shown how entertaining were the

careers of the brothers, Erastus B. and Horatio N. Bigelow, how the development of Clinton has come from the inventions and business skill of these active, progressive men. There are others, too, who have taken up their burdens and have carried them to the profit and edification of their fellow-citizens. In the collections of the society whose headquarters this building is to be, may be found recorded their lives and deeds.

In 1895 was projected the greatest act of spoliation as yet devised in this commonwealth, if not in the nation, viz., the taking of the territory essential to the location of the great basin for the water supply of Boston, since named the Wachusett Reservoir. Farms, factories, hamlets and villages were all destroyed that storage facilities might be afforded for the waters of the Nashua. Not since England warranted the devastation, incident to the creation of the New Forest, had man seen the face of nature so essentially changed as was that fertile section through which had flowed from the beginning the placid river. Here in coming years all searchers should be able to find every item pertaining to the changes wrought. Every acre of the surface affected should be accounted for, along with the names of those dispossessed and pictorial representations of the progressive phases of the destruction. Only a few years hence and men will wonder that, where then repose the accumulated waters, formerly was heard the busy hum of machinery and were found the happy homes of hundreds of industrious people. What boundless possibilities of historic fact are here coupled with the imagination which ever accompanies the most entertaining narrator.

Today our schools are far in advance of those which we and our fathers attended. The routine of question and answer as laid down in the text-book no longer suffices. Nature herself has become an open book, and all her secrets are most diligently sought. Bird and flower, once thought the special province of the scientist, are now within the reach of all, and prattling children are alive to beauties which

went unrecognized by the elders. Of course this may have come in part from the increased wealth of the community and consequent added leisure of all, but the fact remains that general information concerning the varying phases of animal and vegetable life is far greater than it was a very few years since. Where could the collections of beast, bird, fish and flower be better stored and preserved than within the walls of the Holder Memorial? But the earth, itself, has its own story of growth and development, and the local geologist could well make this the cabinet of his discoveries in a geological, mineralogical and paleontological line and still in no way trench upon the special field of the school-master who, by the way, through his very position should be a member of the historical society.

Back of all the records made by the white man in America, are the traces of the aboriginal inhabitants who before the dawn of our history roamed over the hills and through the forests which in subsequent years we have called our own. King Philip and his men would find very little to recognize over the route which they pursued during the troublous day when Lancaster was destroyed and Redemption Rock, in nearby Princeton, acquired fame through the end of Mrs. Rowlandson's captivity, there effected by an ancestor of Senator Hoar who, upon the rock itself, has deeply graven his appreciation of the event. Who will be the artist to properly paint the scenes so vividly portrayed by the principal survivor of that sad tragedy, and when delineated, what better place for its bestowal than the walls of this memorial building? The Indians have art of their own, examples of an age through which the white man passed cycles since, and they have left many valuable relics of their day and deeds. In our own times they give us specimens of handiwork which would baffle the skill of our most ingenious workmen. If the Holder Memorial should some day become the depository of collections of aboriginal handiwork of both the past and the present, how would the same add to the interest of this place so rich in material things?



Again, we find spaces evidently designed for the reception of books. Even before their existence as we know of them, we read that of the making of many books there is no end. The annual product runs far into the millions of volumes, yet we never seem to have too many of those that we really like and appreciate. President Eliot has spoken of the necessity of greater discrimination in the acquirement of books and of a sort of literary coventry to which may be sent volumes no longer called for, but in a society such as the one to occupy this building there can be little question as to what is properly before it. Moreover, if, in the fullness of time, its shelves should bear the lifelong collecting of the speaker who follows me, the record of that religious denomination into which the donor of the edifice, was born, and whose history is fraught with so much that is interesting, in a double sense the structure would be a Holder Memorial. Here would have to come the student who would know the ultimate fact concerning the people who gave William Penn to Pennsylvania and Christopher Holder to Massachusetts, whether the Bay State would have it so or not. The ease of locomotion in these days has rendered null the old plea that all great collections of books should be piled upon each other in centers already filled to repletion.

To another has been assigned the pleasant task of speaking specially of the family whose name this building bears, but I cannot deny myself the pleasure of expressing the thanks that residents of other places, as well as those of Clinton, would return to him for his discriminating gift. All men who love to record the deeds of worthy people must rejoice that at least one historical society of a local character is most delightfully placed in quarters as fine as art and architecture can make them. Let us hope that other philanthropists and lovers of the old home will take heed of this act and go and do likewise. How much that is truly valuable could be rescued from possible destruction if the possessor knew that, in passing it into the custody of the

local historical society, it was to be preserved as surely as we can be certain of anything.

To very few people is given the discernment which discriminates between what ought to be preserved and what should be thrown away. When in doubt, the proper way is to take the object to the custodian of the nearest collection for his opinion. If all could see the mass of printed matter annually submitted to the American Antiquarian Society for inspection and judgment, a very good lesson might be had as to what should be done with that which many a housekeeper calls "just good-for-nothing clutter." The old leather-bound book carelessly shoved under the attic eaves by one generation, becomes the rarest of Americana in the next. If Edgar Allen Poe could have realized a tenth part of the prices recently paid for first editions of *Tamerlane*, perhaps the poet had not died in penury and misery, but were every copy printed preserved, there would be no rare first editions. He is a wise man who knows just what to plant for the reaping, scores or hundreds of years hence.

The edifice today opened and dedicated is added to a group near the center of Clinton, already conspicuous for number and interest. As the visitor from the south approaches the village, after skirting the Wachusett Reservoir and climbing the hill which overlooks the vast factories inclosing so many thousands of swiftly moving spindles, he passes first the High School where the older children of the town are advanced either to college or into the battle of life. Next his eye rests upon the stately meeting-houses where the questions of time and eternity are regularly presented and Whittier's refrain on the value of nearness of church and school must recur to him. A glance across the Common shows him the hall wherein assemble those who elect the officers of the town and vote the annual appropriations, and close by the same, as it were a silent sentinel, is the monument which ever commemorates the patriotism and valor of the sons of Clinton in Rebellion days. Then, if



the traveller's glance be quick enough, he may see the new structure devoted to the library of the town, free to all, where rich and poor alike may feast upon the finest mental food that money can purchase. He will not be able to see the Holder Memorial from the first-named view-point, but as his vehicle swings around upon High Street and he reaches its principal cross-street, a look to the right will reveal the final figure in the cluster. Last, but by no means least, it is a worthy supplement to all the buildings named. No less than they, it enters upon a useful career, for here shall be gathered for preservation the story of all that the town was, is and is to be. History is ever making, and within these walls will assemble those who are interested in its keeping. It has been said that those who make history are too busy to write it, but their Iliad will here be told and Clinton is to be a happier, better town and city through the thoughtful generosity of her son and benefactor, Francis T. Holder, who is making the New preserve the Old.

SELECTION—"Love's Old Song." . . . *Arr. by Smith*  
QUARTET.

ADDRESS—"The Influence of the Quaker in Our National Development," by Prof. Charles F. Holder of Pasadena, California.

I consider myself highly privileged to stand on this historic ground, where every mile, every acre has its story and its legend—the strands which make up the history of a great state and nation.

I consider it a high honor to have been asked to speak upon the subject of a people so closely interwoven with the intellectual and moral development of the commonwealth from its inception as a colony, and my only regret has been that this responsibility could not have been placed in worthier hands among the many historians of the state.

I have in my possession a paper which has a peculiar and significant bearing upon this interesting occasion. It is not a document of state; it bears no glittering seals, yet

reading it in the light of future events it was a shadow on the wall of history; the first written word suggesting the coming demand for true and complete liberty of conscience on the American continent. It is, in brief, the passenger list of the good ship *Speedwell*, Robert Locke, master, which sailed from England May 30th, in the year of our Lord 1656.

I find here forty-one names, many of them well known today as the founders of distinguished colonial families. As I cast my eye down the list I find that eight of these forty-one names are indicated by the letter "Q," and below in the left-hand corner the initials J. E., and the date of arrival in Boston—July 27, 1656.

Why were these eight names indicated? It meant that the passenger list, which was sent ashore on the arrival of the *Speedwell*, conveyed to John Endicott, governor, the information that the eight men and women so designated were Quakers. It was the signal for him to order their arrest; and as they landed, every man and woman so designated was cast into jail. The names of these cultivated men and women, ministers of the society of Friends, were Christopher Holder, John Copeland, William Brend, Thomas Thurston, Mary Prince, Sarah Gibbons, Mary Weatherhead and Dorothy Waugh.

They were disciples of Peace; they bore the message of peace and good will toward men; they were not garbed in the panoply of war, yet they unconsciously constituted an army which gave battle for many years under the banner of passive resistance; an army which, by its very moral force, swept all before it; an army whose notes for honor, fidelity to trust, Christian faith, still ring in clarion tones the length and breadth of the civilized world.

The leader of this party of Friends and Quakers was Christopher Holder, the ancestor of all the Quaker Holders and some of the Slocums in New England. He was an English gentleman of wealth and position, who, like William Penn many years later, resisted the importunities of his

family and cast his fortune with George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, who was one of the great figures of history in the seventeenth century; raised up by inscrutable destiny as a living protest against the splendors of the church that found its most elaborate and sensational expression at this time.

There comes a time in the history of every nation when the people rise and throw off some incubus as in the Protestant Reformation; and at this period, when the princes of the church dominated state and even life, the Quaker, Fox, called a halt. He and his followers first prayed for the right of liberty of speech, then demanded it.

At this time bigotry reigned in England. The Puritans had fled to Holland and America, and for years the Friends or Quakers filled the jails in England and became martyrs to their cause; but they became so well established that many parties went to various lands to preach their doctrines; doctrines which in the present year stand as the cornerstones of public morality and the conduct of Christian life.

The Holder party was the second to reach America. Mary Fisher and Anne Austin arrived in Boston in 1655, from the West Indies, and were then thrown into jail and deported. The second party met the same fate. They were confined in jail in Boston for about two months, then banished, all their books and papers having been destroyed. So little were the Quakers understood that Governor Endicott now passed a law forbidding Quakers to come to the alleged land of religious freedom, and providing fines for any one who aided them. This paper was the first official note of what was virtually a war of extermination on one hand, a war of passive resistance on the part of the Quakers. The doctrines of the Quakers were denounced as dangerous and pernicious. What they were, divested of all exaggeration, Joseph John Gurney gives as follows: "I should not describe it as the system so elaborately wrought out by Barclay, the doctrines or maxims of Penn, or as the deep and refined views of Pennington, for all these authors have

their defects as well as their excellencies. I should call it the religion of the New Testament of the Lord Jesus Christ without diminution, without addition, and without compromise." In a word, the religion of the Quaker, so violently attacked, was fundamentally that of the Puritan.

The Quaker missionary party had met with defeat, they were deported, and the long two months' voyage went for nothing; but on arriving in London they secured another vessel, the *Woodhouse*, and in 1657 again Christopher Holder led eleven Quakers across the Atlantic in a vessel about the size of a smack. John Copeland, Dorothy Waugh, Humphrey Norton, Richard Doudney, Mary Weatherhead, Sarah Gibbons, Mary Clark, Robert Hodson, William Brend and William Robinson were their names. The crew of the vessel consisted of two men and three boys, and in about two months they arrived at Martha's Vineyard, where Holder and Copeland landed, the rest of the party continuing to New Amsterdam. The two ministers were soon ordered to leave. Every house was closed against them; but the Indians took them in, carried them across the channel to the beach, where they began their march to Boston. They stopped at Sandwich, Massachusetts, first, and here founded the first Quaker society in America. Here the first service was held under the preaching of Holder and Copeland, and the first meeting-house built.

When the ministers moved on they left eighteen families as converts to their views—the nucleus of the great organization that from that time until today, over two centuries, has exercised a profound and dominant influence for morality and the simple life.

To follow the footsteps of these men in the succeeding years would be to give the history of the rise of Quakerism in England and America—a story that has been sung by Whittier and Longfellow, and inadequately told by the historians of our day—and in the brief time at my command I can but touch upon the stepping-stones that bridged this chapter of our national history.

The banished men reached Plymouth, and were forced to walk back to Rhode Island, then a harbor of refuge for the Quakers. Governor Endicott wrote to the governor and requested their deportation, but the governor of Rhode Island, in the spirit of Roger Williams and its later illustrious governor, General Dyer (a descendant of Mary Dyer), refused in words of gold, "that none be accounted a delinquent for doctrine;" a decision which spoke for the high intelligence of the people of Roger Williams.

Despite many warnings the two preachers walked north, and in July, 1657, two hundred and forty-eight years ago, Christopher Holder preached in the old First Church of Salem. Here he was attacked, choked by an official, taken to Boston and thrown into jail, with Samuel Shattuck who was charged with the heinous crime of aiding a Quaker.

Now began what was virtually to the Quakers a reign of terror. Every Friend—man, woman or child—was under the ban, and those who aided or entertained Quakers were held equally guilty. Yet Holder and Copeland paid no attention to these unjust and dogmatic acts. They believed they were entitled to freedom of speech and liberty of conscience.

They were brought before Governor Endicott, and after a short examination were sentenced "under the law against Quakers" to receive at the hands of the hangman thirty lashes with a knotted cord. The two men were taken to what is now the Common, their hands lashed to posts, their backs bared, and the blows inflicted with such force and brutality that women fainted and brave men turned pale at the spectacle. With backs bleeding, torn and lacerated, they were taken to a damp jail and kept without straw to rest on and without food for three days; and the jailor, it is said, marvelled at them, as no groan or complaint came from them at any time.

In this dungeon they were kept for nine weeks, during which the town of Boston was aroused as it never had been before, a strong pro-Quaker faction making itself apparent.



Samuel Tucker was now tried for being a friend of Quakers, and while the three men were in prison it was discovered that Lawrence and Cassandra Southwick of Salem had entertained Christopher Holder at their house; forthwith they were arrested and thrown into jail. The husband was soon released, but on the person of Cassandra was found a declaration of faith, the first of the kind issued by the Quakers in England or America, written by Christopher Holder while in jail. For having this document in her possession Cassandra Southwick was imprisoned for several weeks and publicly whipped.

Friendship for Christopher Holder accomplished the complete ruin of this family, the enmity of the oppressors literally following them to the grave. The estate of the Southwicks was seized, and they were banished, finding shelter at the house of a Friend, Nathaniel Sylvester, of Sylvester Manor, at Shelter Island, where they died from the effects of the continual brutal treatment they received. Their children were arrested later for neglecting the Puritan church for the meetings of Quakers. As they would not pay the fine, Provided Southwick was offered for sale as a slave on the public docks of Boston; but for the honor of the town no sailing master could be found who would buy her, or even carry her to Virginia or Barbadoes. Whittier has described this scene in his poem, "Cassandra Southwick," and it is interesting to note that a niece of the distinguished gentleman who has given this memorial building is a lineal descendant of Cassandra Southwick, and is in this audience.

Doubtless the authorities believed that the experience of Holder and Copeland would warn other Quakers, but the friends of the maltreated men began to gather from Rhode Island and New Amsterdam to protest. Richard Doudney was arrested in Dedham and brought before Endicott, and after an examination received thirty lashes and was thrown into prison with his two companions, where he signed the declaration of faith which Christopher Holder had prepared.



Just previous to the expiration of their term of imprisonment, Christopher Holder and John Copeland prepared a paper showing how contrary to the teaching of the New Testament were the actions of Endicott and his magistrates. When accused of the authorship they did not deny it, and Endicott said that they deserved to be hung for it, and as adequate punishment for writing a logical argument against crime, the prisoners were ordered to be "severely whipped twice a week, the hangman to begin with fifteen lashes and to increase it by three at every whipping." As a result of this, the three ministers were repeatedly flogged upon the bare back. But this was not enough. The Quakers uttered no protest and still came to Boston, whereupon, in August, 1657, the famous ear-cutting law and tongue-boring law was promulgated against the "cursed sect, called Quakers."

First, there was a fine of one hundred shillings for entertaining a Quaker, and forty shillings for every hour of such entertainment. Second, any Quaker caught in the jurisdiction was to have an ear cut off, then kept in the house of correction at hard labor until he had earned a sufficient sum to pay his passage away. For the second offence, he or she would lose another ear. Every Quaker woman was to be severely whipped; and finally, for a third offence, "they shall have their tongues bored through with a hot iron, and be kept at the house of correction, there to work until they be sent away at their own charge." Such was freedom and liberty of conscience in Boston in the year of our Lord 1657.

The Declaration of Faith, defining the so-called doctrine of the Quakers, written by Christopher Holder and issued from the jail, was the most important document issued in America up to this time. It defined the position of the Friends, and by its clear logic, its eloquence and the evident earnestness of its purpose, became the means of making many converts to the cause of Quakers among the Puritans. The paper was the first declaration of American independence, in this instance ecclesiastical rather than political, and in some of its lines recalls the famous declaration of Ameri-

can liberties written one hundred and twenty years later. They are: "Whereas, it is reported by them that have not a bridle to their tongues that we, who are by the world called Quakers, are blasphemers, heretics and deceivers, and that we do deny the Scriptures, and the truth therein contained; therefore, we who are here in prison shall in few words, in truth and plainness, declare unto all people that may see this, the ground of our religion, and the faith that we contend for and the cause whereof we suffer. Therefore, when you read our words let the meek spirit bear rule and weigh them in equal balance, stand out of prejudice, in the light that judgeth all things and measureth all things. As (for us) we do believe in the only true living God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all things in them contained, and doth uphold all things that He hath created by the word of His power," etc.

The repeated beatings, now twice a week, which the Quakers were receiving, aroused so strong a public feeling in Boston against Endicott, Bellingham his deputy, and the priests, that in August, 1657, they were released and taken before the court, where, scarcely able to stand, they were sentenced: Christopher Holder, John Copeland, Richard Doudney and Mary Clark to banishment, while Cassandra Southwick was sent to her home in Salem.

In the meantime, all the Quakers in New England were being brutally treated; still, Christopher Holder, now in England, decided to return, and with John Copeland he crossed the Atlantic and visited Sandwich, only to be arrested, taken to Barnstable and given thirty-three lashes. Then followed months of suffering, until 1659, when we find Christopher Holder in jail in Boston, being visited by Mary Dyer and others. A short time later, seventeen Quakers were in jail, and three—William Robinson, Marmaduke Stevenson and Mary Dyer—sentenced to death. Holder was again banished. He was spared death, it is supposed, on account of the influence of his family with Cromwell; but the others were executed on Boston Common.

Then came the restoration of Charles the Second, the dramatic episode of the king's messenger, so fully treated in history and song; the release of the American Quakers and peace for a while. But it was not until 1685, when James the Second succeeded to the throne, that the war against the Quakers practically ended. At that time ten thousand Quakers were released all over England, among them Christopher Holder, who had spent four years and a half in jail for insisting upon the rights of free conscience. Such, very briefly, is the history of one of the Holder name, a Quaker in the colonies in the seventeenth century, whose memory is to be honored in part in this splendid pile given to the Clinton Historical Society by Francis T. Holder, as a memorial to his father and mother, types of the gentle, God-fearing man and woman of the Quaker faith.

In one of the rooms will be preserved all the historical works of the seventeenth century relative to him and his missionary life in America. Here will be hung the Declaration of Faith by him, and various documents relating to the early struggles of the Quakers in America, with various papers relating to other members of the family. So this building has a wide significance. It is in a sense a monument to the pioneer Quakers of America, and a reminder to generations to come of the greatest victory ever won on American soil, where a handful of men and women, armed with moral force and passive resistance, planted their banner bearing the motto, "Religious liberty," throughout the American colonies.

Christopher Holder, as a type, was a great general, in a contest that the historian of the future only, can adequately describe, and is a stirring illustration of what can be accomplished by strength of purpose, indomitable will and the consciousness of a righteous cause. Opposed to him and the Quakers was the colonial government and its laws, enacted at will, and the home government; yet the victory was so complete that the singleness of purpose of the Quaker, his faith, his standard of honor, his culture and refine-

ment, have been far-reaching factors in the development of our national character.

The coming of George Fox was a renaissance of culture in the seventeenth century, and the Friends were ill-treated, tortured and killed merely because they were two hundred and fifty years ahead of their time. We hear much today of the simple life, yet this was the fundamental doctrine the Quakers preached to the Puritans; and that they lived it, is well known; it was the keynote of their lives, which were beautiful in their unostentation, and their influence has permeated our national life.

The Quakers denounced slavery in 1650, and worked for the liberty of the slaves until they were freed, then spent their money in educating them. The Quaker was a shrewd business man, but his word was as good as his bond; he held his honor above all things. He invented the religion that was used every day of the week, instead of on Sunday alone. In 1656, he denounced war as a relic of barbarism, and demanded arbitration. He demanded the right to worship God after his own fashion. He demanded the right to think and express his thoughts before the world. He refused to bow down before a human potentate; to doff his hat to kings, who were really servants of the people. He refused to swear or bear false witness.

In all the reign of terror no Quaker struck a blow or made a complaint. They accepted their fate with the spirit of martyrs, strong in the belief that right would prevail. Mary Dyer, William Robinson and Marmaduke Stevenson went to their death with a smile on their faces, strong in the belief that their cause would be advanced by their destruction.

In all these years of persecution, the sole weapon of the Quaker was prayer and passive resistance. In brief, the Quaker lived up to his doctrines; his model was the Word of God, and it was impossible to ignore the fact, even in the seventeenth century, that here was a people who were living lives that were models to the world. They made no pro-

fessions, they lived the simple life as preached today, and their methods made a profound and distinct impression upon the young and plastic country. The Quakers from being laughed at became accepted as types to be followed. Their humanitarian ideas were adopted, and great parties were formed favoring arbitration and peace.

Their policy with the Indians is remembered today, and through all the years much that is best, purest in our national life can be traced to them.

Some of us may regret the passing of the quaint forms of speech, the simple, beautiful dress which characterizes the Friends, but the veneration of Christian symbols, the faith of the power of the spirit of truth that guides them through all the vicissitudes of oppression, still lives. As a distinguished clergyman said: "Such things matter little. The spirit of their sublime faith has permeated every religious body as a power incontrovertible, though perhaps unsuspected, and the outward emblems are not needed in the broad, liberal religious light that is spreading over the world, bringing peace and goodwill to men."

Like little rivers that flow down the mountain side, spreading, growing wider and stronger, their deeds mingle with the greater waters that are the heritage of the world. The outward semblance of the Friend may pass, but the spirit that filled his soul is eternal in its influence for good.

But thirty thousand Quakers are found today in England, only ninety thousand in America, but their influence is stronger than in the age of Cromwell and Fox. There is hardly an old colonial family today that is not allied to the Quakers. The best traits of the American character—honor, independence, bravery, culture and the attainment of high intelligence—were a part of their faith. Their gentle ways and lives inspired the author of *The Simple Life*, and the term Quaker, given in derision, is today and always has been a synonym of a high standard of honor and good citizenship, which, combined with the austerity and good qualities of the Puritan, have given us the standard of Americanism of today.



In closing, I would like to refer to the giver of this splendid memorial, whose life and many qualities are well known in this community, but I need only say that he is a worthy son of a distinguished ancestry; a Quaker of the type that gives strength and stability to the nation, that in Christian virtues, in dignity and high motives stands at the head and front in the twentieth century.

POEM—Caroline H. Holder, of Lynn.

Over two hundred years have fled  
 Since our ancestor, by the spirit led,  
 Fired by a true devotion,  
 In the Speedwell crossed the ocean.  
 From the city of London he came  
 Bearing with him the Holder name,  
 In this land on Freedom's soil,  
 Here to worship, here to toil,  
 Here to rear a family tree  
 Full of grace and symmetry.  
 Much of life the world hath known  
 During the years so swiftly flown.  
 Oft doth the muse in accents low  
 Sing of the souls that did come and go,  
 Of their joyful hearts and merry ways  
 As they lived out their appointed days.  
 Oft her numbers in cadence flow,  
 Soft as summer breezes blow,  
 While she murmurs of days gone by  
 And of thoughts that never die.  
 Glowing with celestial fire  
 Bold she sweeps the heavenly lyre,  
 As she sings in loftiest strains  
 Of the hardships, woes and pains,  
 Of the conflicts dire and long,  
 Of the struggles with error and wrong,  
 That the nation did bravely meet,  
 Trampling tyranny 'neath its feet,  
 Mighty in a righteous cause,  
 Respecting God and human laws.  
 But today she bids us all,  
 Summoned by a friendly call,  
 Here to gather, here to meet,  
 That we may each other greet.



Let our hearts in grateful measure,  
 Testify the unwonted pleasure  
 That we feel in welcoming here  
 All who come from far and near.  
 Members of one family band,  
 Growing, spreading o'er the land.  
 Welcome to this family meeting  
 Ye whose hearts with love are beating,  
 Loyal to the Holder name,  
 Guarding it from sin and shame,  
 Ye who in the paths of life  
 Never seek the ways of strife;  
 But ever an influence sweet  
 Lend to all with whom ye meet,  
 Seeing in each human soul  
 The Lord who doth this world control.  
 And ever may the God of all,  
 Who noteth even the sparrow's fall,  
 Guide us in our separate ways,  
 Comfort, bless us all our days.  
 May our numbers vast increase,  
 May we follow ways of peace,  
 Seeking in the world to be  
 Full of love and charity,  
 Striving ever with all our might  
 To shun the wrong and do the right.

#### PRESENTATION OF KEYS.

In behalf of Francis T. Holder, his attorney, John H. Coyne, Esq., of Yonkers, New York, presented to the Clinton Historical Society the keys of the Holder Memorial, in accordance with the terms already stated, and briefly expressed the wish of the donor for the well-being of the society and the community.

RESPONSE—Jonathan Smith, President of the Clinton Historical Society.

*Mr. Holder:*

In behalf of the Clinton Historical Society, I gratefully receive the trust which the presentation and acceptance of these symbols of title to the Holder Memorial imply. The society takes the gift with a full sense of the responsibility

thereby imposed, and so far as is within its power will execute the obligation with fidelity to the noble purposes by which it was inspired and wrought out, and to the conditions contained in the instruments perfecting the grant. Let our first and most earnest words voice our heartfelt gratitude for the donation of this beautiful structure, so finely conceived, so thoroughly executed and so generously bestowed. It is more than a tribute to the family affections—it is the expression of a broad and philanthropic spirit which would include within its bounty a whole people.

This edifice and the uses for which it is designed will serve purposes that touch the common lot, and will inspire this people with the thoughts and feelings of the higher and better life. Its words are the words of the old Hebrew prophet at the foot of Sinai: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." It tells us, if we would attain the peace that brings enduring happiness, we must follow that "Inward Light" which lighteth the soul of every man born into the world. And not least of all, both in its outward form and inward adornment it places before this community visions of beauty which the humble, the well-to-do and the favorite of fortune may equally share and look upon with pride and a sense of personal ownership.

It means vastly more than the mere addition of another to our many public buildings, for it opens avenues to that higher culture which enlarges the mental and moral vision of the people. As a center of historical record and study it speaks less to the understanding than to the nobler emotions of the heart. From its collections the earnest inquirer may learn to sympathize with the great and good of the past, and to hate what is mean and base. In the anomalies of fortune to be stored here, the student may feel the mysteries of his mortal existence; and in the companionship of the noble men and women who in past times laid the foundations to the industrial and intellectual development of this town, shaped its destinies and have made it what it is, he



JONATHAN SMITH



can find the secrets of our growth and prosperity. Here he may learn of those great souls in ages gone by, through whose fidelity to right and justice all that is best in our civilization has been attained, and thus escaping the littleness which clings to our common life will his spirit be attuned to a higher and nobler key. "History," it has been said, "is a divine poem, of which the story of every nation is a canto, and of every man a line." In these halls all who listen may hear its strains as they come echoing down through the centuries, mingled with the discords of warring cannon and dying men. But the devout listener may still catch, above the jarring notes, a divine melody running through the song, which speaks of hope and happier days yet to come.

"In a government like ours," says President Eliot, "the happiness of the people is the supreme end, and the ultimate aim of democracy is to increase to the highest possible degree and for the greatest possible number the pleasurable sensations and cheerful feelings which contribute to make life happy and to reduce the preventable evils to their lowest terms." We have the favor and fortune of many forms of industrial enterprise, and they are necessary for the social and economic well-being of the town. But to attain the higher life, and to see this people as they really are and ought to be, we must look through the smoke and dust of the community to centers which are intellectual and artistic, to forces which discipline the mind and at the same time cultivate the sense of beauty, if we would see the loveliness and magnificence which is all about us. The material and intellectual conditions we have; the historic and artistic opportunities are now supplied through this gift. Let us not forget that beauty is one of the elements by which the soul is sustained, and in its nature is associated with virtue and life. The enjoyment it gives is refined and pure; it is congenial with the noblest feelings, and in its nature is akin to worship. It is accessible to all in all places and in all of men's moods, and no feelings of envy or jealousy can detract from the pleasure it gives. The culture by which the love

for it is developed is something additional to what is produced by the schools, however high their standards may be. It is more than the love of the best literature, whether ancient or modern, and the influence on mind and manners which flows therefrom. It is more than intellectual, that faculty of being able to see things as they really are. It is better than these—it is artistic, it is moral and spiritual. In the language of Matthew Arnold, "its aim is the harmonious expansion of all the powers which make for the beauty and worth of human nature," It has for its object the discipline of the mind, for its own sake, that it may perceive and sustain these great ideals of duty and right which are essential to a complete development, and thus furnish additional security to the foundations of a democratic state. By such culture is given the habit of judging everything by an ideal standard, and the individual is thereby enabled to absorb new facts and new ideas and fit them into the growing system of his thought. So it organizes to the full the resources of the human being and fashions him for the social and industrial world about him. It is precisely in a country like this, which is full of new problems and difficulties that must be faced and solved, where social and economic questions assume new and complex forms for which human experience has no exact parallel—it is precisely here in this republic that this ideal of culture or education, if such you call it, is most urgently required.

The addition of an institution like this to the instructive forces of any community is an event of the deepest significance. None the less so is it to the future of this town. Here already exist those activities that bring to the people their means of material existence. The schools open to our children the opportunity of intellectual growth which better fits them to make their way in the world. Our library spreads before the people the delights of good literature; and our public parks draw the faculties to the observance of the loveliness of the natural world in some of its most pleasing manifestations. Through this Memorial is furnished



another avenue to that higher culture which is a step in advance of them all, and crowns them all. Here shall be treasured the records of the past, those letters of instruction which the older generation transmits to the new for its guidance and direction, inciting the student to closer thinking and to nobler living. And here, in cast and print, in etching, photograph and painting, will be found the triumphs of genius in the field of design, placing before the humblest citizen the highest ideals of beauty and form, and opening his eyes to a wider vision of the charms, both in nature and art, which hedge him in on every side. By the knowledge thus coming to him will all his nobler powers be harmoniously expanded into an endless growth in wisdom and refinement, through which the human race finds its ideal. It will reveal to him how full of beauty the world is, and that all those things which are truest and best, and which contribute the most to the highest human enjoyment, are all his own. As he contemplates this edifice and the collections here to be gathered, his love for the domestic virtues will be strengthened, his sympathies enlarged, and his whole life raised into a higher and purer atmosphere.

In accepting this trust, permit us to express the belief that you have builded more beneficently than you have yet dreamed. If on your part it is an expression of filial devotion and of your love for a people whose rule of action is the beatitudes of the gospel, to us it means all these and vastly more. It is a fine example of a generous public spirit which makes the happiness of others the supreme object of life. You have placed the keystone in the arch of our educational system, and your gift will lead this people in to the cultivation of those higher faculties and emotions which bring the truest satisfaction and contentment to the heart. Happy is that people who have such opportunities spread before them, without money and without price; thrice blessed be he through whose munificence they come! The building will stand for generations, but will not outlast the beneficent influence you have bestowed upon the present

and future of this town. Truly you can say with the old Roman poet, that to domestic love and blessings of peace, "I have built a monument more enduring than brass and higher than the regal building of the pyramids, which neither the fierce storm nor the strong north wind, the serried years nor the flight of time can destroy."

I need not say in this presence that this gift is fully appreciated. The opportunities it brings will widen and grow with the years; and as its privileges are more keenly recognized, so will the gratitude of this people increase as time goes on. Its influence for good, both directly and indirectly, will spread far beyond those now living. In future days, here may come the student of the past, and sitting at the feet of the Muse of History can read the magic scroll whereon she has written the story of centuries gone by; here may the naturalist learn the mysteries of that law of development out of which present life has sprung; and here may enter the lowliest toiler, and clasping hands with Phidias and Angelo, with Rembrant and Corot, can converse with the masters of art in all ages in a very garden of the gods.

SELECTION—"Sunset." . . . . *Van De Water*  
QUARTET.

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At the close of the dedicatory exercises the members of the Clinton Historical Society and invited guests returned to the Holder Memorial Building.

The response to the invitations that had been issued was most pleasing to Mr. Holder and the society. The national government was represented by the congressman of the district, Hon. Charles Q. Terrill of Natick, and by Hon. Rockwood Hoar, M. C., of Worcester. Although the pressure of other duties prevented the presence of Governor Douglas, Lieutenant-Governor Guild and Secretary of State Olin, yet they all sent their most hearty congratulations and best wishes to the society, and Attorney-General Herbert Parker brought in person the greetings of the commonwealth.

It was a notable gathering of the descendants of Christopher Holder. Francis T. Holder, Elizabeth W. Holder his wife, Ava L. Peene his daughter, and Lunette E. Holder, daughter of William P. Holder and also a lineal descendant of Cassandra Southwick, all from Yonkers, New York, and Mrs. Ruthanna Washburn, daughter of Rachel B. Holder, of Vasselboro, Maine, represented the descendants of David and Ruth Bassett Holder. The family of Thomas Holder, grandfather of Francis T. Holder, was further represented by Lydia B. Dow, daughter of Joseph Holder, her husband Greely Dow, and their children with their families, James Greely Dow, Maria C. Dow, Alfred Dow, Alice M. Dow, George E. Dow, Alice L. Dow, William H. Dow and wife, all of Bolton; also by Mary H. Holder, Rachel S. Bruce, Elmira A. Holder and Elsie Holder Seymour, of Berlin; Emily L. Howe of Marlboro, Mrs. Robert W. Carter of Maynard, and Jane Brydon and Mrs. Hubert Bigelow of Hudson.

Going back another generation to Daniel Holder of Nantucket, the great-grandfather of Francis T. Holder, some twenty-seven welcome guests from Lynn and Swampscott must be added to our list. These were descended from Richard and Daniel Holder, younger brothers of Thomas. The descendants of Richard Holder and of his son, Aaron Lummus Holder, with their families who were present, were: Mrs. James W. Holder, James G. Holder, Leila W. Holder, all of Lynn; the descendants of Daniel Holder through his son Daniel, and grandson Nathaniel, who were present, were: Harriet E. Holder, Caroline H. Holder, William C. Holder and wife, Mrs. Nathaniel Holder, Jr., Clara B. Adams, Flora H. Breed, Isabel M. Breed, S. Ellen Breed, Emma H. Breed, Jessie M. Holder and wife, Mary E. Holder, Bertha L. Holder, Everett T. Holder, Ralph Holder, C. Ethel Holder, Sanborn H. Locke, all of Lynn; Mrs. Theodora H. Jameson, Charles S. Jameson and wife, and Holder M. Jameson of Swampscott. The society would acknowledge its indebtedness to Harriet E. Holder

of Lynn for valuable assistance given to its invitation committee.

Edwin J. Holder, who was present with his wife, from Amesbury, belongs to a branch of the Holder family only distantly related to the descendants of Christopher Holder.

Professor Charles F. Holder of Pasadena, California, whose morning address gave such a vivid picture of the work and sufferings of the early Quakers, is a grandson of Aaron Lummus Holder mentioned above. Dr. Joseph Holder, his father, was a practicing physician in Lynn, a noted surgeon in the Civil War, a co-worker with Louis Agassiz, a voluminous writer on natural history, an organizer and for many years curator of the American Museum of Natural History. Charles F. Holder, his only son, having received his education at the United States Naval Academy and the schools preparatory therefor, has devoted his life to literature. He has published *The Life of Charles Darwin*, *The Life of Louis Agassiz*, *The Corals and Jelly Fishes*, *The Holders of Holderness*, and a great many other well-known works. He has been since 1885 a resident of Pasadena, California, and has been officially connected with many educational institutions of that state. To him the society is indebted for many favors in connection with the dedication. He has also assured us that his library, which is very rich in books and original documents dealing with Quaker history and in memorials of the Holder family, as well as in works on natural history, will at some future time be given to the Clinton Historical Society.

Thirty guests, some of them, like the Dows, included in the list of descendants of Christopher Holder, were present from the Quaker meeting in Bolton. The aid given by Adelaide E. Wheeler, assistant clerk of this Quaker meeting, in securing for us the pleasure of such a representation from the meeting, was thankfully accepted by our society. These Quaker guests were bound like ourselves by strong ties of gratitude to Francis T. Holder, and were glad of an opportunity to do him honor.

The historical societies of the state were represented by about a dozen guests, all of whom felt we were blessed beyond compare in having such quarters provided for our organization.

In our list of guests we must not omit to mention John H. Coyne, Esq., who has so ably and so courteously managed for Mr. Holder all legal affairs connected with the gift, or Emil Grewey, the architect, by whose creative power the building was designed, or Bayard H. Tyler, the artist, whose portraits of David, Ruth Bassett and Francis T. Holder adorn the walls, or Jeannette Peene, daughter of a stepson of Ava L. Peene, who delighted us all so much by her music. Several other personal friends of Mr. Holder were present. Our own community was represented by members of the board of selectmen, by most of the members of the Historical Society, and as many others whom they invited as personal guests. With the exception of these members of the society and their personal guests, all were entertained at the expense of Mr. Holder.

There were also numerous representatives of the press who were present as guests. Long articles on the dedication appeared in the Boston Herald, Boston Globe, Worcester Telegram and Lynn Item, while the Clinton Item and the Clinton Courant each devoted a large portion of a whole issue to it.

The peculiar fitness of the building for social functions was at once evident when the guests assembled. The palms which crowned the core of the circular seats, the table in the center of the hall tastefully spread and decorated with flowers, the animated throng of guests, seemed to one looking from the gallery above to be the very elements the building needed to make the picture of the old colonial mansion complete.

The bountiful luncheon which was provided by Caterer E. M. Reed of Fitchburg was excellent in quality, and was served in a most pleasing manner.

It was two o'clock before the company could break away



from the joys of social intercourse to listen to the distinguished guests from abroad who had been asked to reply to toasts. It is a source of great regret that these after-dinner speeches cannot be given in full, but the providing of a stenographer for the occasion was overlooked and as some of the speakers declare themselves unable to recall their words, it is deemed best that no attempt to reproduce them shall be made. President Smith introduced Wellington E. Parkhurst as the toastmaster. The following is a program of the exercises:

Music—Harvard Quartet.

Toast—Our Nation. Among the citizens of Massachusetts who have honored us with their presence today is the representative in Congress from this district. As he has proved himself a successful champion of rural free delivery, an invitation is extended to him to freely deliver to this audience his national estimate of the relation which a tried and historic faith bears to the welfare of the community.

Response—Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell, M. C., of Natick.

Toast—The Heart of the Commonwealth: ever beating in unison with the highest ideas of a receding past, the loftiest sentiments of a chivalrous present and the brightest anticipations of a loyal future. Among our guests today is a resident of Worcester, an honored son of an honored and distinguished father.

Response—Hon. Rockwood Hoar, M. C., of Worcester.

Toast—The Quakers of Massachusetts. A few years ago, in legislative halls, a member from New Bedford appeared, who rapidly rose in the estimate and esteem of all his associates; he has since done responsible work in the Boston law courts, while his pen has performed faithful service in the description of Quaker homes and principles. We are glad to meet him at this festive board.

Response—Hon. George Fox Tucker of Middleboro.

Toast—The Clinton Historical Society. As it is as





WELLINGTON E. PARKHURST

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

proper that our guests meet our society as that the society should meet its guests, we offer you a sample of the material of which it is composed, and ask Secretary Ford to make remarks explanatory of the work of the society.

Response—Andrew E. Ford.

Music—Harvard Quartet.

Toast—The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We have had the nation represented on this occasion, and the commonwealth is also present in the person of one of its most honored sons, a member of the state administration; we have known of him from his youth up; we have watched him in his infantile years and as he was budding into manhood, anxious whether he was to go up or down. But he won the confidence of his town and state, and is a happy illustration of what heredity and influential local environment can accomplish in a Worcester County climate.

Response—Attorney-General Herbert Parker of Lancaster.

Music—Violin Solo. Jeannette Peene of Yonkers, New York, accompanied by Lunette E. Holder of Yonkers, New York.

Toast—To Francis T. Holder, the donor of the Holder Memorial, the Clinton Historical Society responds its hearty greetings, its best wishes, and its most profound thanks, with the promise of faithful guardianship of the treasures which may be committed to its care by him and his family friends.

Response—As Francis T. Holder in his modesty declined to reply, John H. Coyne, Esq., of Yonkers, New York, made response.

Toast—The Lynn Family of Holders. Represented here by an honored member who, bearing the Holder family name, has also done good work in the Lynn Historical Society, and therefore is doubly welcome.

Response—William C. Holder of Lynn.

Toast—The Fitchburg Historical Society—an older organization to which we shall look for counsel as we journey along in our common path of effort.

Response—H. A. Goodrich, president of the Fitchburg Historical Society.

Music—Violin Solo. Jeannette Peene, accompanied by Lunette E. Holder.

The music given by the Harvard Quartet at the hall and in the Memorial Building was of a most excellent quality. It was a great good fortune that Miss Jeannette Peene was present and consented to favor us with violin selections, from which all music lovers derived so much pleasure.

The responses to the toasts were full of words of congratulation to the society as the recipient of such a noble gift, and of words of honor to the donor; there were flashes of wit which were well appreciated by the audience; there were interesting bits of historic truth and comparisons between the life of the olden time and that of the present; there was much earnest discussion concerning the doctrines and deeds of Quakers and Puritans, and the influence of these on the life of today; there was much exaltation of the home as the foundation of personal and national character; there was a presentation of ideals and methods of work of historical societies and of the good they might accomplish; through it all ran the thought of which the memorial itself is the enduring illustration, that he who pays due honors to noble men and women of the past is giving to the future the highest inspiration to worthy life.

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At the close of the exercises, carriages were provided for all the guests, who desired to do so, to visit the Metropolitan Dam and other points of interest in the town, and then the various members of the party returned to their respective homes.

A letter from William C. Holder of Lynn contains the

following statement, which is given as a sample of the many kind words received from our guests:

“There were twenty-seven belonging to the Holder families of Lynn present at the gathering on the 20th, and all expressed themselves that they had never been present at any occasion of the kind when everything, from beginning to the end, was done so thoroughly, thoughtfully and graciously. We all had a good time, and we shall always remember the day with unalloyed gratification.”

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